

Hafa Adai!

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Photo shows the front of a REAL ID-compliant CNMI driver's license.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

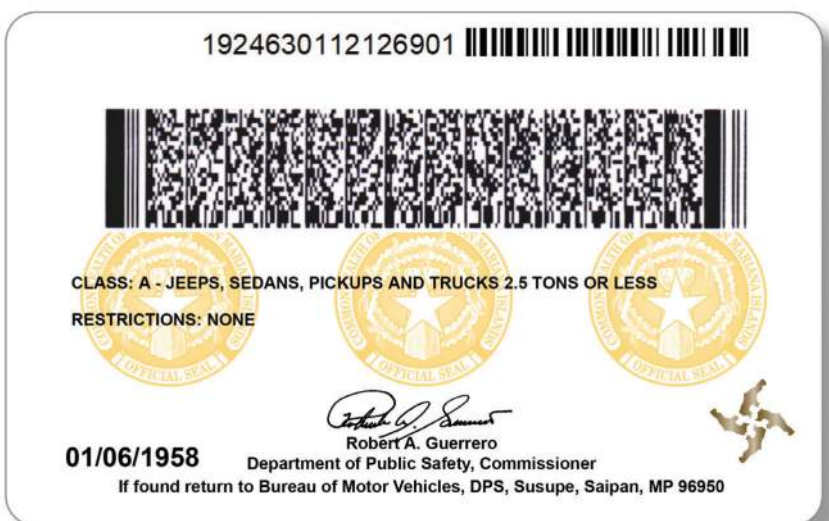


Photo shows the back of a REAL ID-compliant CNMI driver's license.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPS now ready to issue REAL ID-compliant DLs

The CNMI Department of Public Safety is now capable of issuing driver's licenses that comply with the mandates of the REAL ID law, thanks to the help of technology company Valid.

In a statement yesterday, it said that DPS has now implemented driver's licenses that are fully compliant with the requirements of the REAL ID law—which means they are now fully reliable means of identification.

"By implementing the Valid REAL ID solution and improving physical card security, [the] CNMI is taking steps to secure the overall process of verifying the identities of its residents and issuing secure documents," the press

statement added.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, every air traveler must present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, a valid passport, or a U.S. military ID, to fly within the United States. Individuals, even U.S.

citizens, who are unable to verify their identity will not be allowed to fly.

Valid and DPS worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration throughout the pro-

See DPS on Page 4



Photo shows the front of a REAL ID-compliant CNMI driver's license for minors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood to be rebuilt

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

After sustaining massive, nearly irreparable damage from Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, the Hopwood Middle School campus will not be renovated, but will be completely rebuilt from the ground up, in order for the campus to be more resilient.

Public School System Fa-

cilities Development Management director Rachel M. Fusco said the plan is to build a new campus for Hopwood, using the money that it will get from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The final decision for Hopwood is still under review by the board but we will have adequate FEMA funding—approximately

See HOPWOOD on Page 4

Physical addresses for homeowners in 2020

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Homeowners and establishments on Saipan will finally have physical addresses within the year, with implementation of the long-awaited house numbering project

that is expected to start as early as February 2020, with the

southern side of the island being their first site, according to Saipan Mayor's Office project manager Lee Tenorio.

"We're really excited. We want

See PHYSICAL on Page 4



Tenorio

Chopper landings prompt worry

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

In taking off or landing outside of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the pilot has the final authority on the operation, according to Air Traffic Control Tower manager Jerald Mendiola, who affirmed that the Saipan Tower does not authorize nor approve any take-off and landing outside of the

Saipan airport.

This was in response to a question by Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) regarding the landing of Saipan Helicopters in the XO Market parking lot on Middle Road. Saipan Helicopters is owned by Vertical Aviation Saipan, which also owns XO Market.

Hours before Super Typhoon Hagibis hit Saipan last Oct. 7, a red chopper operated

See CHOPPER on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The first ride sharing application on Saipan, IslandRide, will launch the service next week.

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ASIA

A crowd of mostly barefoot Filipino Catholics pray for peace in the Middle East.

PAGE 18



WORLD

At least 63 Canadians are killed in a jet crash, minutes after taking off from Iran.

PAGE 19



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Local

Final draft of PWS Methodology report now with feds

Last December, the CNMI Department of Labor and the CNMI Department of Commerce held a conference call meeting with the U.S. Department of Labor's National Prevailing Wage Center to discuss employers' concerns regarding the prevailing wage determination for H-2B and PERM visas. The meeting focused on the applicability of the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey to other visas, such as

H-2B and PERM.

The 2019 PWS replaces the previous 2016 Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study and could be used by employers when submitting a PWD request to U.S. Department of Labor. Employers must also obtain a copy of the 2019 PWS survey methodology once it is completed by Commerce.

"The final draft of the 2019 Prevailing Wage Survey Methodology report has been

completed and transmitted to our local and federal key counterparts and we are awaiting final review and feedback before we can officially transmit for approval and publication," said Justin Andrew, director of the Central Statistics Division at Commerce.

"Once the PWS methodology is approved by the U.S. Department of Labor's Prevailing Wage Center, then CNMI employers will be able to move forward with their

prevailing wage determination requests for other visas such as the H-2B and PERM," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios underscored the importance of a prevailing wage survey that accurately reflects the Commonwealth's economy, especially after the negative impact from Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Having a true prevailing wage survey that is represen-

tative of the Commonwealth's economy, especially after Yutu, is necessary to protect both employers and its employees from economic hardships, where the cost to run a business and the price of goods will rise. We want to ensure that wages grow organically as it has been over the last four years under this administration," said Torres.

"Since 2014, average hourly wages have increased by 42%

from \$8.71 per hour to \$12.38, and that was the result of a naturally growing economy that was driven by local entrepreneurship and the attraction of new industries and businesses that have employed more U.S. workers than ever before," said Palacios.

For further information regarding the Prevailing Wage Survey Methodology, contact the Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division at 664-3023/45. (PR)

Saturday writing workshops

The Marianas Writers Movement will have a series of six Saturday workshops starting Jan. 18, 2020. Each workshop will be two hours, beginning at 1:30pm in the VTC Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshops, "Beyond the First Draft," will focus on the editing process. These workshops are open to all over age 13, and are free.

Each workshop is different in content. Here is the tentative schedule for topics:

■ Jan. 18 Workshop 1: Intro to editing

■ Jan. 25 Workshop 2: How to be a beta reader

■ Feb. 1 Workshop 3: Writing a critique/editorial report

■ Feb. 8 Workshop 4: Line editing thoughts

■ Feb. 15 Workshop 5: Pitching your novel

■ Feb. 22 Workshop 6: Resources/Hands-on/Feedback/Q&A

Share the journey with us! (PR)



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Sex harassment lawsuit on the edge of dismissal

A former social worker in the Child Protection Unit of the Division of Youth Service who sued her then-supervisor for alleged sexual harassment has been told to explain in court why her lawsuit should not be junked.

The complainant failed to appear at a scheduled hearing in federal court last Tuesday, prompting U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to direct the complainant to appear on Jan. 22 at 8:30am (Chamorro standard time) to explain why her lawsuit should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute.

The complainant, who is reportedly currently in the U.S. mainland, was allowed to appear at the hearing via telephone.

If she fails to appear again, her case will be dismissed, said Manglona.

Last Nov. 15, the plaintiff appeared telephonically at a status conference. The court then ordered her to submit a report summarizing her efforts to hire an attorney. Another status conference was then set for last Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 8:30am.

WHO reps share knowhow about preparing for a measles outbreak

Representatives of the World Health Organization are right now on Saipan to work with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and enable it to prepare in case of a measles outbreak.

Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness coordinator B.J. Nicolas said the WHO representative arrived yesterday and will be on island until today to guide the CNMI health department on the steps it can take to prepare in case of a measles outbreak and to share their knowledge of how WHO has fought the virus.

"They'll be providing some knowledge and expertise based on their background, having dealt with the measles outbreak in the South Pacific and then being familiar with other countries that do not have an immunization program in place. We're very excited to have these guys come

Manglona said the court never received a written report from the plaintiff and that almost a year has passed since she filed her complaint, and she has still not served the defendant with the complaint.

Manglona said the plaintiff did not call in at Tuesday's status conference, despite efforts by court staff to remind her of it.

The judge noted that this is the second time in this case that plaintiff has failed to appear for a status conference.

The court issued the first show-cause order last July.

The complainant was left with no counsel after her first lawyer, Joseph E. Horey, moved to withdraw as counsel last March.

Horey then agreed with Manglona that the complaint was not served yet on defendant Julian R. Camacho and co-defendants.

Aside from plaintiff's then-supervisor Camacho, the complainant named as co-defendants the CNMI government, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs DYS.

The plaintiff is suing Cama-

cho for violation of her civil rights, and the CNMI government and DCCA DYS for unlawful employment practices and violation of her civil rights.

She is demanding damages, court costs, and attorney's fees in an unspecified amount.

According to the complaint, the plaintiff was employed by the Commonwealth as a social worker in the Child Protection Unit of DYS from December 2012 to May 2014. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Public warned to stay out of the water

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 5pm today, Friday. There is also a high risk of rip currents along north and east facing reefs until this afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the highest sea heights will be to the east of the Marianas and will linger longer farther to the north in the Saipan and Tinian coastal waters.

Small craft can be blown off course or capsized.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating

smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions

Along east facing reefs, larger breaking waves will continue to generate strong and frequent rip currents. The risk of rip currents should fall to moderate by Friday afternoon.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near the reef line, especially along north and east facing reefs. Large waves may knock you down and injure you. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Stay out of the water. (PR)

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Training on how to better run the Veterans Cemetery

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

CNMI Veterans Affairs and Department of Public Works staff attended a week-long training at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii last December that was intended to improve the management of the CNMI's Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

In a statement, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the collaboration was made possible by the federal (Punchbowl) and state (Kaneohe) cemeteries in Hawaii. The CNMI attendees were Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, Veterans Cemetery groundsman Raymond C. Teregeyo, and DPW field manager Joseph Manuel C. Castro. Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services director Ron P. Han Jr. and Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific director Jim Horton also attended.

Iakopo said changes in the demographics and the increasing veteran population, government legislation, and new cemetery procedures require formal training and education.

"This hands-on training is essential for all cemetery operators because it is designed to provide knowledge and training for the cemetery's management in order to make the area safe and peaceful for our veterans and their families," said Iakopo.



From left, DPW field manager Joseph Manuel C. Castro, Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services director Ron P. Han Jr., CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific director Jim Horton, and CNMI Veterans Cemetery groundsman Raymond C. Teregeyo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said that taking care of veterans' needs include maintaining and improving the veterans cemetery.

"We are forever indebted to our service members for all the sacrifices they make for our country. Our administration is committed to improv-

ing the quality of all services provided to our veterans and their families, including the Veterans Cemetery. We would also like to thank [Iakopo] and the hardworking staff at Veterans Affairs and DPW for their continued efforts to serve our veterans in the Commonwealth."

DPS

From Page 1

cess to ensure its certification package meets approval guidelines.

The CNMI will still be able to offer driver's licenses that are not REAL ID-compliant for residents unable to meet the REAL ID requirements. However, without a REAL ID-compliant document, citizens cannot access U.S. federal government facilities or board a commercial flight after Oct. 1, 2020.

Valid trained DPS' licensing team to use its streamlined software, which collects applicants' information to issue secure credentials. The criteria required to meet REAL ID compliance include:

- Ensuring images are retrievable by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles if requested by law enforcement;

- Implementing document security features on REAL ID cards to protect against reproduction and document fraud; and

- Verifying applicant's various proofs of identity before issuing a REAL ID card.

"The implementation process went incredibly smooth with very few problems," said Mike Fox, vice president and CCO of Valid. "This is a reflection on the thorough planning, testing and training that went into the project by the Valid and CNMI teams before the implementation occurred."

"The REAL ID regulations and policies are very intricate and nuanced and Valid has been a great partner and successfully led CNMI through this project," said John DeLeon Guerrero, DPS systems administrator. "The implementation timeline with Valid was a swift 12 months, which is years shorter than the industry average. [The] CNMI now has a secure system that can be easily updated with CNMI legislation changes moving into the future."

Valid hosts the CNMI REAL ID solution in a secure virtual private cloud within an Amazon Web Services, Inc. GovCloud Region. The

Valid implementation of its software within AWS includes cybersecurity monitoring using machine learning, which pinpoints potential malicious activity and unauthorized behavior. The Valid software automatically initiates necessary measures to deal with suspicious activity.

REAL ID

Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005, which establishes minimum security standards for state-issued DL and ID cards. The act prohibits federal agencies from accepting DL and ID cards for any official purpose from states that do not meet these standards. The final enforcement phase covers acceptance of state-issued DL and ID cards for purposes of boarding a federally-regulated commercial aircraft and began in January 2018. The regulatory card-based enforcement date is Oct. 1, 2020.

For more information on the REAL ID Act, visit the DHS website at: <http://www.dhs.gov/real-id>. (Saipan Tribune)

Currently, PSS is in the process of identifying possible sites for the new campus.

"Definitely, building a new facility is just a matter of where. The site has to be identified first," Fusco said.

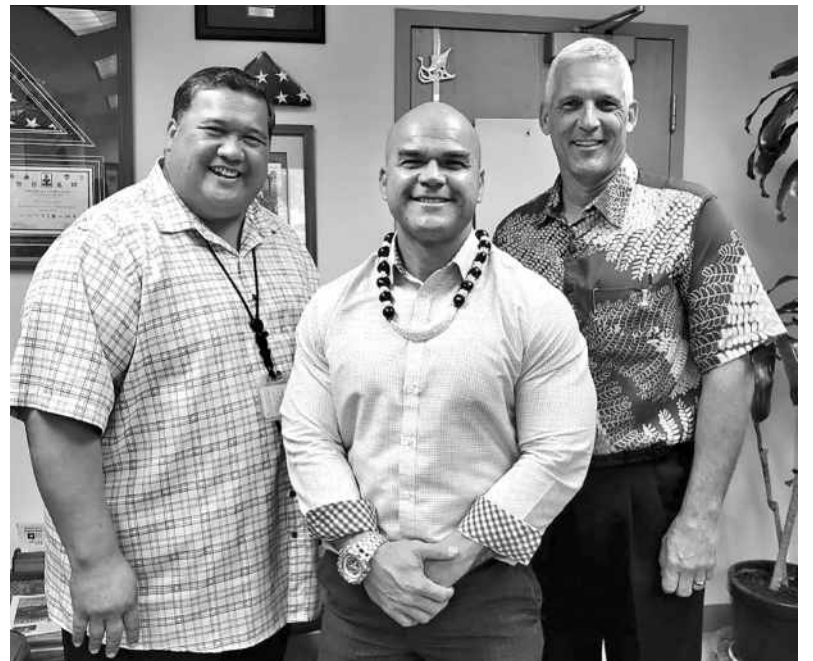
She mentioned that it is possible to demolish the old campus and build the new facility on the same spot, but that's still under the discretion of the CNMI Board of Education.

"Renovation of the old campus is still a possibility if that's the board's decision. That's an option that can be on the table—to demolish what was there and have a new state of art facility in the old location," she said.

However, repairs to some of the old Hopwood classrooms are underway to temporarily get students out of the tent classrooms they have been using for the past year.

"That was only for the interim, to repair some of the classrooms because it's going to take a long time for the new campus to be built. Just so the students can move out of the tents," said Fusco.

Currently, because of the severity of the damage done to the Hopwood campus, the students are attending classes in military tents built on the Koblerville Elementary School campus.



From left, Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services director Ron P. Han Jr., CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, and Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific director Jim Horton.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PHYSICAL

From Page 1

to make sure that we get this going," said Tenorio "We just have a few little things to finalize and then we should be going out and reaching out to the community."

The matter of when Saipan will have a physical address has been an ongoing issue since 20 years ago, but now, with a master map of the island that was updated in September 2019 by a contractor of the mayor's office, the project can now begin.

"Having a physical address will be very beneficial not only for our people but for our first-responders as well, especially with an emergency that requires them to be there as soon as possible," said Tenorio. "We will now be able to say where our exact location is without having to say 'go left here and then turn right there,'" he added.

Information on what the guidelines are for how houses should affix their assigned numbers will be avail-

able soon.

Tenorio, who was appointed project manager last April 2019, said it's been joyful to explore different options for the project. He hopes to provide more services that will benefit the community in the long run.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the project will entail sending out people to every home and assigning numbers to each home. They will be giving homeowners a letter that gives them their street address and number and some samples that shows them how to put up the numbers on their houses or home units.

The house number that the homeowner will then affix to their house will be a minimum of 4 inches in height and up to 6 inches, with a thickness that is more than 3/8-inch.

Owners would have to comply with these specifications set for the posting of the new addresses so that people passing by from the road could see the number, even if the house or the building is a few feet away from the road.

CHOPPER

From Page 1

by Saipan Helicopters landed in that parking lot. The low-flying chopper is used for aerial tours of Saipan.

When *Saipan Tribune* reached out, aircraft owner Sophie Xu said that the helicopter landed in front of the XO Market so it could be put in the warehouse next to the supermarket to avoid any damage that the super typhoon might bring.

Santos said that, while that October incident was a shocking sight, she "was even more alarmed to learn that the chopper regularly lands in this parking lot without the existence of a designated helipad or other markings."

"I speak for many in the community when I say that Saipan Helicopters poses a great hazard to our people whenever it occupies a space meant for foot traffic and land-based vehicles," she added.

Santos chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

"Saipan Tower does not autho-

rize or approve any takeoff/landing outside of the Saipan airport movement area. It is up to the pilot in command to conduct safely those types of operations," Mendiola said in his response to Santos' inquiry. "Saipan Tower will only advise the pilot that their operation will be at their own risk. The pilot in command has final authority on the operation he conducts so any further inquiries should be directed to the airline itself."

After the October incident, it was reported that a Federal Aviation Administration inspector was in the process of reviewing and investigating the matter.

The senator is seeking answers as to what could be done to mitigate the danger of such landings, and is awaiting a response regarding the status of the investigation being performed by the FAA, Department of Public Safety, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The same helicopter was the subject of several complaints by community members after photos of it hovering close to the road going down from Suicide Cliff appeared on social media last weekend.

HOPWOOD

From Page 1

\$23 million—to build a new facility," she said.

When asked for an estimated timeline, Fusco said it might take over four years to build a new, state-of-the-art facility to replace the old one.

"Right now, the proposals have to be generated and the funds also have to be officially released so it's hard to say but the timeline for generating proposals is 18 months and then we have four years to do the work," she said.

Seeming free pass for IPI upsets Sablan

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC may have already started to clear up its payment obligations to contractors but Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Sablan) pointed out that the CNMI has yet to see it pay taxes and other obligations it owes the government.

"If IPI continues to break its promises, continues to not pay taxes, not uphold its end of the bargain... if they continue to violate the law of the license, why are we not making any moves? Why are the regulatory bodies not making any moves to revoke the license?" Sablan asked. "Anywhere else in the world, that license would have been revoked a long time ago."

IPI disclosed last Wednesday that they have already paid local vendors with outstanding payments of up to \$300,000, but whether or not their \$37-million obligation to the community benefit fund has been fulfilled remains a question.

"If you look at IPI's record, the litany of laws they have broken, the litany of promises they have broken, the continuing violations of the license agreement, the question that I have [is] why are we continuing to entertain this bad actor with no consequences? There's no suspension of the license, no penalties for damages," Sablan added.

Last Monday, the House minority bloc released a collective statement that they just want IPI to follow CNMI laws and the provisions of the casino license agreement.

The group cited, among many others, the amendments to the casino license agreement that led to multiple extensions on construction deadlines, without penalties for the delays; the blocking off of half the road in front of the casino, "crippling many of the small businesses along that street"; and, its failure to pay its estimated \$18 million developer's infrastructure tax.

"I don't know why certain powers-that-be are so reluctant to exercise their power. What is clear to me is that this community has no obligation to continue to entertain or do business with bad actors.

"We just continue to amend the license agreement, we continue to hope that they pay taxes, continue to try to negotiate some kind of settlement. And in the meantime, our government services are floundering, our financial state is dismal," Sablan said. *(Iva Maurin)*

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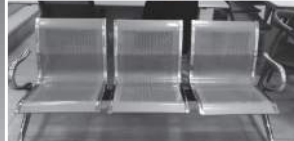
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Fiesta Resort, Kanoa Resort, Sorensen back MTEC summit



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring and Kanoa Resort operations manager Glenn Policare, third and second right, present a \$1,500 check on Jan. 3, 2020, for the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2020. From left, Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager and MTEC board member Martin Duenas, MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, Herring, Policare, and MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda.

MTEC

Local businesses continue to extend their support to the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2020, with Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, and Sorensen Media Group joining the growing list of sponsors.

Executives of Fiesta Resort and Kanoa Resort presented a \$1,500 check to the MTEC board on Jan. 3, 2020, and Sorensen Media Group has donated \$1,000 worth of radio ads.

"Kanoa Resort Saipan, alongside Fiesta Resort and Spa, will always prioritize educating our youth about the importance of tourism and the opportunities it presents," said Kanoa Resort director of operations Glenn Policare. "The annual summit allows the MYWAVE students to enjoy a day of activities and education while engaging with some of our industries leaders. Fiesta Resort [general manager] Wendi [Her-

ring] and I look forward to the summit every year."

Other summit sponsors are E-Land Group of Companies (Kensington Hotel and PIC Saipan), T Galleria by DFS, TSL Foundation, D&Q, Bridge Capital LLC, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, IT&E, Matson Navigation Co., Triple J Saipan, and Saipan Ice & Water.

"It's always been a pleasure for Sorensen Media Group to aid MTEC, whether it be through organizing golf fundraisers with them as we have done in the past or supporting this year's summit, directly," said Power 99 general manager James Nelson. "We are confident the participating students are going to learn a lot about the industry, have some fun doing it, and walk away with a better understanding that 'Tourism is Everybody's Business.'"

The theme of this year's summit, co-organized by the



Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, second from right, receives \$1,000 in radio ad sponsorship from Sorensen Media Group on Jan. 7, 2020, at Power 99 in Susupe, Saipan, for the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2020. From left, MTEC board member Larry Lee, Power 99 general manager James Nelson, Benavente, and Power 99 asst. program director and "The Breakfast Show" host Santi "Big Boy" Sablan.

MTEC

Marianas Visitors Authority, is "VolunTOURISM: Learn today. Lead tomorrow." reflecting the opportunities available to students to engage with the industry and learn today in preparation for

the leadership roles they will take in the industry in the future. This year's summit will be held at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan with students from MY WAVE—Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthu-

siastically—Clubs in grades 5-12 chosen by their schools to participate.

The annual summit will feature Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero, CNMI Public School System middle school teacher Victor Cabrera, American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter executive director John Hirsch, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce financial and data management coordinator Franco M. Santos.

The summit will also feature exhibits by the MVA, MINA, Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Lions Club International, 500 Sails, and others.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or call 664-3210. (MTEC)

GRANDVRIO RESORT SAIPAN

Gong Xi Fa Cai

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 24, 2020 (Fri) Chinese New Year's Eve Dinner Buffet 5:30pm - 9:00pm (Last Order 8:30pm) Reg. \$40 Ad/\$20 Ch	January 25, 2020 (Sat) Chinese New Year Dinner Buffet 5:30pm - 9:00pm (Last Order 8:30pm) Reg. \$40 Ad/\$20 Ch	January 26, 2020 (Sun) Chinese New Year Brunch Buffet 11:00am - 2:00pm (Last Order 1:30pm) Reg. \$32 Ad

Local Price Available

Starlight BBQ

January 24-26, 2020
Venue: Poolside - Reg Operation
(Additional Champagne)
6:00pm - 9:00pm (Last Order 8:30pm)
Reg. \$43 / Child \$21

A I R

COFFEE
LOUNGE
Open: 10am-6pm

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

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Lion Dance 11:25am - 11:55am

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JOETEN ^{70th} ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE FINALE

**10:30AM
SATURDAY
JANUARY 11, 2020**



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CNMI's Got Talent Contestant Neil Fama and Simon Necesito*





2020 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2019 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of three (3) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information please contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

MCS to mark Catholic Schools Week

Later this month, Mount Carmel School will join Eskue-lan San Francisco de Borja on Rota and Catholic schools across the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This year's CSW theme is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero is excited about the CSW theme and the weeklong celebration in January. "For over 65 years, MCS has definitely helped mold students who learn, serve, lead, and succeed throughout their education and beyond." Referring to the school's alumni, who are called AlumKnights after the school's mascot, Deleon Guerrero added, "At the local, regional, and even national levels, our AlumKnights have embraced this year's theme as successful leaders who serve their communities in business, government, and non-profits." Mount Carmel School has prepared a full week of events that highlight a different aspect of the school each day. On Sunday, Jan. 26, at 9am, the focus will be on "Catholic Schools in our Parishes" as MCS students converge on Mount Carmel Cathedral to kick off CSW 2020 with a Mass. On Monday, the focus shifts to "Celebrating Our Commu-

nity" as MCS junior high and high school students engage in different activities that support community services. Elementary school students will make banners expressing their appreciation for the school's many donors and supporters. Tuesday will be dedicated to "Celebrating Our Teachers and Faculty." On that day, MCS will hold an appreciation program for faculty and staff, in which the 2020 Teacher of the Year will be announced. On Wednesday, MCS will celebrate "Catholic Schools in our Vocations" with a Mass, which will be followed by a vocations talk and other activities honoring vocations. MCS will shift its attention on Thursday to the rest of the country with "Catholic Schools in our Nation." On this day students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 will learn how to fold and raise the American and CNMI flags and participate in various campus activities. Friday morning's emphasis will be on "Catholic Schools in our Students" with MCS students participating in a roadside waving in the morning, followed by field activities and demonstrations. Friday night will highlight "Catholic Schools in our Families" with the school's signature CSW

event, Family Night. Held on the school grounds beginning at 6pm, Family Night will feature dinner and entertainment to celebrate their role in Catholic education. The school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week will end with the "Night with the Knights" AlumKnight fundraising banquet on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020. "A Night with the Knights" will feature a music video montage of the school's history, raffle prizes, and entertainment. The event will also include the announcement of the 2020 AlumKnight of the Year and Class of the Year. Tickets for the Night with the Knights are \$50 each and can be purchased at the school's Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184 or email Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com. The celebration of Catholic Schools Week began as an annual event in 1974. Catholic Schools Week and the National Marketing Campaign are joint projects of the National Catholic Educational Association, the world's largest private professional education association, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the national public policy organization of U.S. bishops. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

RFQ20-GOV-027

Request for Qualification Statement for Construction Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Mitigation Project

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Hazard Mitigation Program, Office of the Governor (collectively, "Commonwealth") and on behalf of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Construction Management (CM) Services for the Water Mitigation Project at Various Well Sites on Saipan, MP.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof, Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope of Work for the CM is available at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A pre-proposal conference will be conducted on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Governor's Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp or to fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. ChST Friday, January 17, 2020.

Statements of professional qualification from interested firms must address, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Overall construction management experience in the Western Pacific Region, and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - (25%)
- Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope - (30%)
- Past performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed construction - (30%)
- Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (15%)
- Fee - (0%)

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, Certificate of Authorization and must be licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI. Firms shall also submit an estimate (range) of CM fees based upon a 12-month project schedule. Fee estimates will assist the HMGP Office with their budget, but will not be considered in the firm evaluation scores.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 and shall not exceed 30 pages.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fare and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualification statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-027, Construction Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Mitigation Project". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Asencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Friday, January 31, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Friday, January 31, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday, January 31, 2020, and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be the cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS (To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontract or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. IFB-004-20

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT **POLICE PATROL BOAT WITH TRAILER**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer, destination Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning January 10, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building on January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., to discuss and ask questions regarding this procurement process. All interested bidders are asked to attend.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to jtdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp prior to February 3rd, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer/IFB-004-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, February 7, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

IPI, IPI Holdings deny engaging in illegal employment methods

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited have denied any allegation or inference by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that they have engaged in unlawful employment practices.

In IPI's and IPI Holdings' answer Tuesday to EEOC's lawsuit against them, they also asserted that EEOC did not engage in good faith conciliation or otherwise satisfied the statutory conciliation prerequisite prior to filing the lawsuit against them.

IPI and IPI Holdings, through counsel Kelley M. Butcher, argued that the U.S. District Court for the NMI lacks jurisdiction over the matter and over IPI Holdings.

Butcher said EEOC failed to comply with all of the statutory prerequisites applicable to this lawsuit and that it failed to exhaust all applicable administrative procedure before filing the lawsuit.

Among EEOC's many allegations, she said that IPI and IPI Holdings only admit that Yuki Yu Xia was associated with the management of the VIP services.

The lawyer said IPI and IPI Holdings deny all other assertions and inferences alleged or implied in that allegations with respect to Xia.

In its lawsuit, EEOC said that, in supervising and directing Best Sunshine's employees, Xia also held herself out as possessing the ability to control work assignments and termination when she requested VIP Services hosts to work past normal hours and provided briefings about guests in team meetings and threatened to terminate those who could not perform assigned duties in a staff meeting that she called.

Butcher asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit in its entirety and allow IPI and IPI Holdings to recover the court costs and attorney's fees they incurred in this case.

The EEOC filed the sexual harassment and sex discrimination lawsuit against IPI and IPI Holdings last September for allegedly subjecting some female VIP service hosts to

unwelcome physical and verbal sexual harassment by IPI casino's male patrons, otherwise known as high rollers.

The EEOC, through its regional attorney, Anna Y. Park, alleged that the hostile work environment became intolerable and caused many of the claimants to be discharged.

Park said the defendants imposed VIP service host duties and assignments on women that were not similarly imposed on men—thus engaging in sex discrimination in its terms and conditions of employment.

EEOC asked the court to issue a permanent injunction enjoining IPI and their officers from engaging in sexual harassment, retaliation, and any other employment practice that discriminates on the basis of sex. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Deadline for boat evictions at OCM

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources wishes to inform vessel owners/operators using the Outer Cove Marina that the department is preparing to evict or remove boats that are not allowed to berth at OCM for the following reasons:

1. Vessels lack berthing permits, and
2. Vessels without power/engine to operate on their own within the OCM waterways.

Boats without power/engines will need to be removed on or before Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 (no later than 2pm).

Boats without berthing permit will need to be removed on or before Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 (no later than 2pm).

For questions or concerns, contact the main office at (670) 322-9830/34 or email Augustin M. Kaipat at kaipat.dlnr@gmail.com for details. (*PR*)



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70 SINCE 1949

Memorial for Pacific soldiers to be built in Guam

A monument to honor service members from the Pacific who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military is being planned in Agana in Guam.

According to Tim Ohno, retired U.S. Army major and project coordinator, the idea is for a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument to be built in Adelup (Gov. Rick Bordallo Complex) in Agana. A group of volunteers composed of veterans, Gold Star Families and surviving family members of the fallen are working on this project.

He said the level of sacrifice from the families of the Pa-

cific Region has been significant. "...these island nations and territories have the highest per capita rate of recruits enlisting in the U.S. Armed Forces than all of the 50 states and 14 territories. ...As such, these island states also have the highest per capita rate of casualties," he said.

He cited the Federated States of Micronesia, which has a population of 105,000 and has lost over 10 of their sons and daughter while Guam, the CNMI, Palau and the Marshall Islands "all have numerous Gold Star Families whose loved ones

have paid the ultimate sacrifice," he added.

Ohno said the volunteers originally worked with a Gold Star Family since April last year. "This family... have since lost interest and the non-profit organization was dissolved. We had other groups of veterans who have come together to...bring this project back to life and we are honored that the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation has allowed us to work closely with them on this."

"We are planning a groundbreaking set for March...

where Mr. Hershel Woody Williams will be joining us. Williams is a Medal of Honor recipient who also is a Guam liberator. He is 96 years young but still full of energy," he added.

The volunteers have also been working with other Gold Star Families throughout Guam, the CNMI, Federated State of Micronesia, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam Veteran Affairs, and the Joint Region Marianas headquarters.

The plan is, after the groundbreaking in March, the new monument would be unveiled

in September 2020. The help of potential donors and sponsor are now being sought, with an eye toward raising \$250,000.


"...A minimum contribution of \$200 will have the donor's name (if they so desire) inscribed on a brick that will be incorporated into the overall monument layout," Ohno said. "...We're also looking for companies who can possibly contribute in-kind donations for building supplies and materials. All granite work will be coming from a company in Kentucky. The bronze work may also come from Seattle or the Philippines, depending on cost," he added.

Ohno said the group of vol-


unteers are committed to seeing the project through. "...the memorial...is a tribute to all the Gold Star Families and relatives as a reminder to us all that they have sacrificed a loved one for our freedom," he added.

Checks or money order donations can be sent to the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, ATTN: Pacific Islands Regional Gold Star Families Memorial Monument 12123 Shelbyville Road, Suite 100 Louisville, KY 40243 or visit www.hwwmohf.org.

For more information contact Ohno at sofintek@yahoo.com or call (671) 682-6340. **(Bea Cabrera)**



Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm, in CHCC Conference Room 3.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Credential Privileges
 - New Applicants:
 - 1) Dr. Benjamin Goldman
 - 2) Dr. Michael Chen
 - 3) Dr. Timothy Hong
 - 4) Dr. Shirin Kasturia
 - 5) Dr. Todd Jarrell
 - 6) Kristen Jensen, Nurse Practitioner
 - 7) Edward White, Nurse Practitioner
 - 8) Pamela White, Nurse Practitioner
 - Renewal Applicants:
 - 9) Dr. Ashebir Chekol
 - 10) Sylvia Taggart, Physician Assistant
- VII. Reports:
 - A. Management & Operations
 - B. Financial Statement
 - C. CMS & ECR Dashboard Update
 - D. QAPI Report - ESRD & Hospital
- VIII. New Business:
 - A. CGC Presentation
 - B. CEO Evaluation – Deadline & Tools
 - C. Financial Responsibility Metric for Credentialing
- IX. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.
- X. Announcement
- XI. Adjournment


TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
"Car Rental Concessions"

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-20

for
CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-01
CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-02

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of two years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-20 is **December 20, 2019**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
 Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
 Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRPORT FIRE STATION ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement, delivery and installation of eight (8) aluminum brand new roll up doors for the bays located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve the finished products, along with testing and commissioning in compliance with the items in the scope of work.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA's Airport Fire Chief, Frederick Pangelinan at telephone number 670-288-0091.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office or via email at wprater@cpa.gov.mp or cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., **Monday, January 13, 2020**. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers shall submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for Procurement, Delivery and Installation of Eight Roll Up Doors for Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-20"*. Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

PROPOSERS SHALL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS DETAILED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AS DETAILED ABOVE.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2019


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
 Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
 Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-17

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for Berth 103 Repairs at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director's office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than **Friday, January 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time**.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 2, 2020


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-003

SUBMISSION DATE: February 19, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Engineering and Design Related Services for Route 310 (Tapochao Road) Improvements, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON January 30, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.


QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS February 7, 2020. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S


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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM DEVELOPERS
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)
 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: June 30, 2020 *** TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2020-003
"GARAPAN ANNEX PROPERTIES"

Proposal packets will be available on Friday, January 10, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference is scheduled on Friday, February 14, 2020, at 09:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. Only those individuals who have paid the RFP Package Fee are allowed to attend the pre-proposal conference. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670)234-9021, no later than Friday, February 21, 2020, 4:30 p.m. local time.

For more information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, at (670) 234-6866/9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Kimo M. Rosario**
Acting-Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon**
Acting-Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Free self-guided, GPS-assisted tour app of NMI now available

“Waysides” are the informational signs you often find near historic places, culturally-significant sites, monuments, memorials, nature/wildlife conservation areas and scenic spots. They tell an important story and preserve the history and culture of a destination for visitors as well as residents.

Sometimes, however, those useful waysides fade, become damaged by exposure to the elements, vandalized or even stolen—and may not be replaced due to lack of funding and other reasons. As part of his “Waysides Tour Project,” Saipan author and internet entrepreneur Walt F.J.

Goodridge has created a free mobile phone app that seeks to preserve the information on over 200 waysides throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

“There’ve been times I’ve taken guests to popular spots here on Saipan and Tinian,” Goodridge said, “and I’ll discover that a particular informational

sign is no longer there. So I created this resource to effectively restore and preserve damaged or unreadable signs or those that have been (or may soon be) destroyed by typhoons.”

For example, the Taga House Interpretive Center with the story of King Taga was destroyed during Super Typhoon Yutu. However, using photos he’d taken over the years, Goodridge transcribed the full text, and has made it available in the app.

“It’s not just for tourists,” Goodridge adds. “Families here on island can download the free app, use it to go trea-

sure hunting, and discover things about the islands they can be proud of and share with others (including lost tourists) in a fun, convenient way!”

The Saipan and Tinian apps are being launched in a beta test phase with a call for help for the Rota edition: “If you have any photos of signs on Rota and any island that no longer exist,” Goodridge said, “use the app to send me a message so I can include it.”

The apps are available for Android phones in the GooglePlay Store, and an iPhone version will be released (on the App Store) soon. Until then, iPhone users can bookmark a web version.

The tours are also available in paperback format.

FEATURES

Combined, the three tour apps feature:

- Over 200 sites and points of interest on Saipan, Tinian and Rota
- Photos and text of existing, damaged and missing “waysides”
- Additional facts, figures and trivia
- GPS locations
- Hard-to-find bird and wildlife posters
- National Register of Historic Places sites
- Garapan Heritage Trail sites. **(PR)**

Language access training for the courts

Debi S. Tulang-De Silva, J.D., program director of the Hawaii State Judiciary’s Office on Equality and Access to the Courts, will be providing technical guidance in the CNMI on language access from Jan. 12 to 18, 2020.

Tulang-De Silva is scheduled to host trainings for the CNMI Judiciary, CNMI Bar Association, CNMI-based interpreters, and other government agencies. The training will cover topics, including but not limited to, language access laws and impact of mandates, integration of language access for services, and working effectively with interpreters.

In a statement yesterday, the CNMI Judiciary said it looks forward to Tulang-De Silva’s assistance in enhancing its Language Access Plan and Policy, which became effective in 2015. LAPP is consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which

prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin.

“It is the policy of the Judiciary to provide timely, meaningful, and equal access to programs, services, and information to

Limited English Proficient and Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons,” the statement said. Covering standards for qualified interpreters and translators, trained court staff and judges, and multi-lingual signage and documents, LAPP was made possible through the efforts of the CNMI Judiciary, the CNMI Bar Association, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Defender, and other entities.

Tulang-De Silva has been program director at the Hawaii State Judiciary since 2005. She received her law degree from California Western School of



Tulang-De Silva

Law in San Diego, California, and her bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education in Psychology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Tulang-De Silva established the Hawaii State Judiciary’s first court interpreter certification program. Since 2008, she has conducted numerous trainings on language access and interpreter certification. She plays an active role in providing trainings on language access throughout the Western Pacific region and also serves as the Hawaii State Judiciary’s Language Access coordinator, ADA coordinator, and primary staff for the Hawaii State Judiciary’s Supreme Court Committee on Court Interpreters and Language Access and Supreme Court Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts. **(PR)**



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Iran's retaliation is more conventional than expected

By **ELI LAKE**
Bloomberg News

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the *Daily Beast* and covered national security and intelligence for the *Washington Times*, the *New York Sun* and *UPI*.



After a U.S. drone strike killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani last week, America braced itself for the unexpected: The Department of Homeland Security issued an advisory warning that Iran may launch cyberattacks against critical infrastructure. New York's governor deployed the National Guard to New York City's major airports.

Those precautions are wise and understandable. But Iran's missile attacks on bases hosting U.S. troops in Iraq on Wednesday shows that the regime's retaliation may be more conventional than expected.

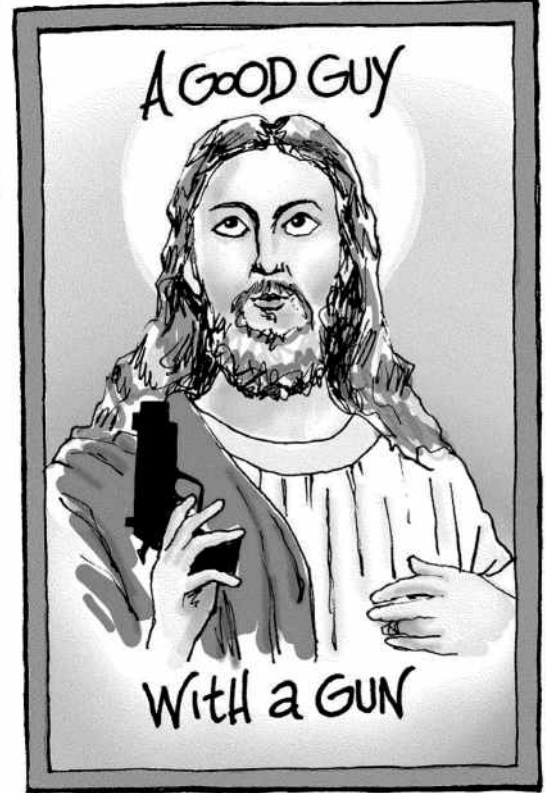
Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has used terrorist groups as proxies to strike at civilians and embassies, attempting to obscure their own responsibility for these attacks. Now the Iranian regime is signaling a new approach. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told his advisers last week that its response should be a "direct and proportional attack on American interests," according to the *New York Times*, and that it should be "openly carried out by Iranian forces themselves."

That said, there is good reason to doubt that Iran's response will be limited to this attack. Iran has fought its wars through proxies since the 1990s. This was Soleimani's legacy. From 2003 until his death last week, he built up militias in Iraq, Yemen and Syria, waging an imperial war in the shadows on Iran's behalf throughout the Middle East.

Some analysts acknowledge that Iran's military has the capability to do a lot of damage, particularly to U.S. allies such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. But it "is not going to be able to out-escalate the United States," says Alireza Nader, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. Khamenei understands this, he says, and he may be attempting to convey strength at a moment when the regime has been weakened.

Another possibility is that the U.S. drone strike demolished the strategy of plausible deniability that Iran has relied on for so long. It's not just that Iran's generals could no longer count on being spared the fate of the terrorists they cultivated and sponsored. The strike signaled a new U.S. strategy that imposes grave costs for Iran's broader proxy war.

The regime will almost certainly still depend on its terrorist proxies. But Iran's missile strike shows that it is prepared to engage in direct military attacks to take revenge for Soleimani. The world's leading state sponsor of terrorism will also rely on conventional warfare.



FINCH © HORTON
2020 CHRONICLE

Pagan

The first things you do to begin the organized development of a new place is to make sure you can get there, carry and unload enough materials once there to construct needed initial infrastructure and get yourself and your work crews off and headed safely back home until the next trip. On an island, that means you need to develop a seaport and, in our modern age, an airport as well.

The first meeting of the Pagan Ad Hoc Committee of the Commonwealth Ports Authority last month began that important process on beautiful Pagan Island in earnest. Former senator Pete Reyes, the chairman of the new committee, is just the man to head up such a project. If you are new here, the "Slow" nickname when applied to the senator means methodical and with detailed decision-making patience, not dense, as you will see if you follow his exploits.

Designing and building a seaport and an airport on exotic black sands Pagan some 200 miles away from Saipan will come packaged with a host of logistical problems that won't be easy to solve, but are definitely doable. It will be costly but initial development that leads to future growth pays that initial investment back many fold over time.

Should we do it? Absolutely. Here's why:

*Pagan in pre-contact times housed a significant population that was mostly decimated during the mid-Spanish colonial occupation of the Marianas. This should be memorialized and used as a base. Importantly, it became a center of a *traditional* repopulation *residence* movement in the Japanese era, largely because of access to a Japanese-built airport and resupplying made economically feasible with a small port for loading and unloading boats from Saipan and other already developed or developing islands in the Marianas chain.

**Tourism* is not only possible on Pagan but that exotic island could become a major economic center and a branding theme of CNMI tourism in just a few decades if properly managed and if growth is stimulated by cooperating populations on the other islands who see the huge income potential to all of the CNMI because of it. Notice I said decades. This won't and can't happen "overnight" unless a very deep pocketed developer came into the picture and essentially developed the island by themselves a la the Seychelles one-island-one-resort business plan. This is unlikely. A far more realistic expectation is a decades-long buildup of needed infrastructure (airport, seaport, power, water, roads, medical facilities etc.) leading to smaller hotels and building up to several high-quality resorts, much as happened on Saipan. This process would likely start with currently in vogue eco-tourism businesses and small eco-cruise ships, followed by the hotels mentioned just above.

*Constitutionally mandated *homesteading* is underway, with lots being disbursed by Department of Public Lands' Homestead Division on Pagan even now. New residential homesteaders can-

SOUR GRAPES

By **BRUCE BATEMAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



not survive except on a primitive level without some of the infrastructure mentioned above and with an income/job producing industry to foster quality of life and produce a liquid cash stream to maintain it and the goods and services that make it a quality experience. Homesteaders can and should be the mainstay labor providers and thus the recipients of much of the largess that will emanate from the growing new tourism industry on Pagan over the years. The resurgence of a *new society* built upon the traditions of the two older ones that came before will make a core cultural group that can act as the glue to keep this new group together as it moves forward and grows into whatever shape the new residents and businesses work toward.

As mentioned above, none of this comes cheap. So who should pay for it? CPA has a well proven set of financing methods to initiate ports startups and to foster their growth and improvement over time. As they begin the essential first step of airport and seaport development, they can bring these methods to bear to generate the money needed to build both types of ports simultaneously. Another key area to obtain financing is the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, which has \$2 million or \$3 million budgeted to it most years and has a mandate to foster growth in those 10 Northern Islands where appropriate. Finally, the NIMO, CPA, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and other stakeholders could seek out grants and other forms of federal assistance for rural areas that are already in place. If Pagan isn't currently rural I don't what is.

There is some historical development in the late Japanese era that gives a boost to World War II buff tourism and provides an interesting and contrasting historical context that can be used to the advantage of the newly burgeoning tourism industry on Pagan as it develops. Another useful item that comes from this time frame are the pre-engineered sites and general plans for the airport (now with a lava flow covering part of it) and the seaport/loading dock placement from that era.

As a final note we should notice that boats are slow but pro-

See PAGON on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

2020: Bad start, fiscally

Doubly distracted by news updates of the escalating war in Iraq and Trump's unprecedented economic success across the fruited plain. Had to pick the Donald for his sheer determination to Make America Great Again.

The strength of the national economy is at its highest since 30 years ago: lots of jobs and better paying jobs too!

Moreover, if you're black, Hispanic or hailing from minority groups, then Trump is your best bet as titular head of our country. He hears the voices of the downtrodden and ignored Americans. That's the Donald as abrasive as he may be.

Meanwhile, were pertinent constitutional provisions violated by Trump or was the Dems' assertion simply empty? Without foundation, it seems the goal is to place its opinions upfront as though a set of facts. Obviously, it's all about tripping the Donald for this year's presidential election.

A personal opinion is neither legal nor constitutional. Appalling the purposeful misperception of Dems, convinced they have a case. I'm not going to turn my head if Trump commits "high crime" or anything else that requires his vacating the WH. Ensure his due process rights then send him through the system.

But if there's nothing up that alley it's better if the issue is laid to rest. Why push egotistical political agenda that would render thousands upon thousands of fellow Americans jobless? But then hardworking folks have seen through this already.

Flag

Increase in wages and salaries require a strong economy. It brings forth

the obvious: how many of the policymakers are conversant of the issue?

Without any sense of the concept how could you be good stewards moving healthy policies to upgrade the livelihood of people you represent? The task at hand is humongous therefore the dire need for you to roll up your sleeves and get to work forthwith. Start reading!

The obvious complacency as 21 states increase minimum wage beyond \$7.25 per hour. EVERbody home?

Ooops!

It is said that policy determines the quality of life in the villages. What have you done that factually upgraded quality of family life in recent past?

Is this a difficult issue to answer beyond looking at your performance folder? With a good sense of perception you could be conversant on this matter too.

Natting

Hoping for a good start this year but it was met with sad tidings of planned budget cuts by agencies doubled down by a shortfall of some \$16 million.

It must be the inevitable where we slug out which agency to strangle and suffocate to allow others to float amidst the stormy tide of "natting."

It must be the "Year of the Natting" or more like "ratting" where all must contend sharing pennies, nickels, and dimes. Its implications are serious, thus the dire need for prudent spending.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Shhhhhh

Not surprising a newspaper article of the subpoena of custodian of IPI records by the District Court here "to testify before a grand jury in connection with simultaneously executed search warrants by the FBI on Saipan.

The subpoena sought all communications between IPI and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, discussing and summarizing cash donations to the Friends of Ralph Organization and to any other political campaigns dated on or after Sept. 1, 2013, among other items.

It is rumored the issue involved huge sums of money. Interesting what amount is involved and who were the players. When the party-like atmosphere descends amidst the largess ready for distribution notice the smiling faces? Still smiling or "not yet, already?"

On Nov. 7, 2019, the FBI executed a search and seizure warrant of "all documents, records, and property (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) that constitute evidence of violations of pertinent federal law by Governor Torres, his brothers Vincent Torres, Victorino Torres, and Joaquin Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue of Marianas Consultancy LLC or Ron Li Anderson of Legend Realty.

"These U.S. laws pertain to fraud by wire, radio, or television; scheme or artifice to defraud; attempt and conspiracy; laundering of monetary instruments; and contributions and donations by foreign nationals."

The outcome of the impending probe is a highly anticipated report so we see where things may have gone right or wrong under the twinkling stars of paradise.

PAGAN

From Page 12

vide a very economical way to transport bulk goods over a distance, while airplanes are fast and allow for timely, and if in sufficient volume, reduce the cost of transporting people to and from a semi-remote spot like Pagan. The one exception that combines elements of both are boats like *The Challenger*, currently homeported on Saipan. This boat and others like it, used around the world, are built for use as liveaboards. They are designed for fast, comfortable travel over sometimes rough seas to make commuting time quicker and more manageable for the non-extreme traveler. They are mostly used for fishing, diving, island exploration and the like, all of which are available in great abundance around Pagan and the other Northern Islands.

Heck yes. Build an airport. Build a small seaport. Begin the process of making Pagan a utilizable and accessible asset.

Medical Referral

Well, it turns out that three lawmakers under orders from an administration honcho to find a place to save money in the Medical Referral process have come up with an idea which will quickly become an ill-written bill to strip the Medical Referral service of some likely much needed flexibility in dealing with sick, indigent patients.

To disclose: I use Medical Referral services and appreciate their excellent responsiveness and their ability to tailor response to their clientele's needs. They work hard. In my case, my insurance or my wallet pays the medical expenses and so I have never needed to use that portion of their services. This new legislation won't affect me, but it will affect a large number of folks from our islands that have neither the insurance nor the personal means to pay to keep themselves alive in the case of serious illness. To the extent that we can, as taxpayers, afford to support this relatively inexpensive department and their extremely important, life-or-death services, we should do so.

I have no problem with auditing to ensure compliance with current rules or procedures, but please don't kill off some of our less fortunate citizens to save a buck or two.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes.

The 'Monuments Men' of WWII understood why we should not harm Iran's cultural sites; Trump should too

By **RON GROSSMAN**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When the U.S. Army invaded Sicily in 1943, Lt. Col. Mason Hammond raced around the island in a beat-up Jeep, intent on preventing its cultural heritage from becoming a casualty of war. Discovering that the National Library in Palermo was damaged by Allied bombing, exposing its collection of rare books to looters, he had American troops assigned to guard them. Other GIs were set to stringing barbed wire around Sicily's ancient temples.

Before World War II, Hammond was a professor of classics at Harvard University, a position he returned to after the war. His treatise "Latin: A Historical and Linguistic Handbook" has long sat on my bookshelves. On Monday, I needed to hold it in my hands.

It witnesses how far we've come from a president who gave Hammond his wartime assignment to President Donald Trump's announcement that the U.S. has selected 52 targets "important to Iran and Iranian culture" to be hit if there is a violent response to our assassination of Iran's Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

The British government, generally our most reliable ally, quickly said it wanted no part of such a barbarous strategy. Even more remarkably, Defense Secretary Mark Esper has distanced himself from Trump by noting that "the laws of armed conflict" prohibit striking cultural sites.

But in responding to his critics, Trump doubled down on his threat, asking: "They're allowed to kill our people, they're allowed to torture and maim our people, they're allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people and we're not allowed to touch their cultural sites?"

The answer is—or should be—"Yes." Not because it's forbidden by international law, but because that is not who we are. Vandals destroy other people's cultural heritage. Civilized nations don't. That's why Hammond and other American professors traded tweed jackets with leather patches for Army uniforms and served in the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas during World War II.

One moment they were teaching Art History 101 or submitting a Ph.D. thesis to a scholarly journal. The next they were tagging along with infantry units and tanks on European battlefields. Some were hardly spring chickens. Hammond was 40 when he safeguarded Sicily's priceless heritage.

Some of his colleagues' exploits were celebrated in George Clooney's 2014 film, "Monuments Men." It follows members of the Historic Monuments commission as they try to stop the

Nazis from stripping French museums of artistic masterpieces. Adolf Hitler wanted them for the colossal memorial to himself that he intended to build in Linz, Austria, close to his birthplace.

Though the Historic Monuments Commission largely stymied Hitler's plans, its establishment was opposed with an argument similar to Trump's justification for holding hostage Iran's cultural heritage: War takes precedent over cultural niceties. But the U.S. then had a president committed to preserving, not targeting, the great monuments of civilization.

When America entered WWII, the presidents of the Archeological Institute of America and the College Art Association, the directors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery, told Supreme Court Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone that masterpieces of Western art were at risk. Of its own accord, the Army couldn't be expected to protect them. Its priority was defeating the Nazis.

Stone wrote to Franklin D. Roosevelt, urging him to proclaim "to the world, friends and enemies, our government's practical concern in protecting these symbols of civilization from injury and spoliation."

Myriad memos marked "urgent" were landing on the president's desk. Our battleships lay on the bottom of Pearl Harbor. The Japanese defeated our army in the Philippines. But Roosevelt read Stone's letter, and thus was created the Historic Monuments commission.






Its front-line troops had to be one of the oddest military units ever created: a phalanx of art historians. Word went down the chain of command to scour the ranks for soldiers with needed skills. Others such as Hammond volunteered. Former professors gave ordinary GIs a quickie course in Western civilization, and the artistic casualties of World War II were less than they could have been.

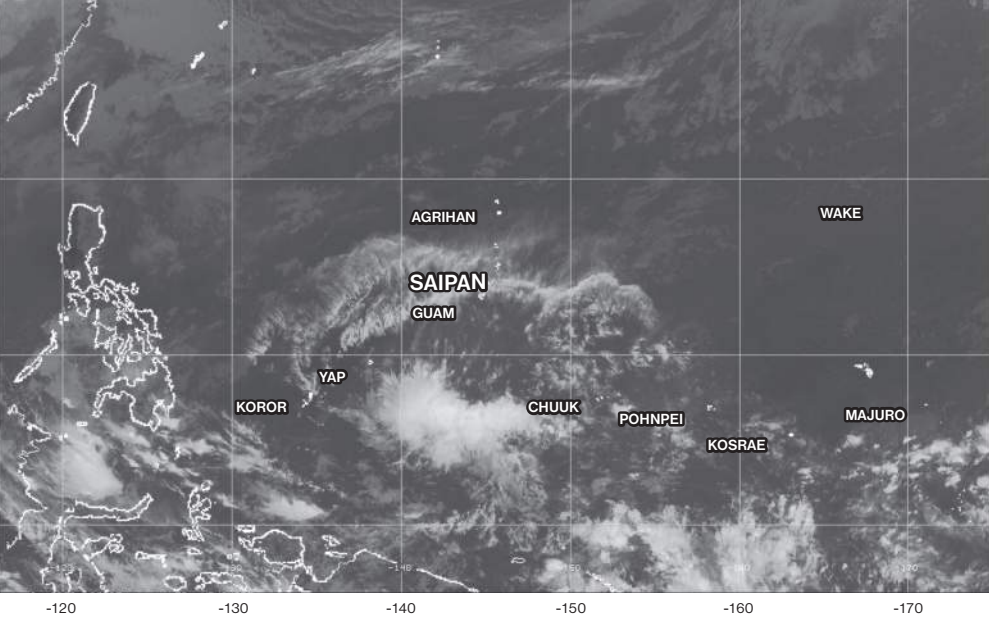
At this point, the consequences of Trump's declaration of war on Iranian civilization are up for grabs. Maybe he will quietly shelve it, just as he did his bid to buy Greenland. Or maybe there could be a tug of war between Trump and his advisers and Secretary Esper and the generals. If so, someone should read Trump a letter that Gen. Dwight Eisenhower sent to his field commander when U.S. troops were battling the Nazis in Italy during World War II.

"Today we are fighting in a country which has contributed a great deal to our cultural inheritance, a country rich in monuments which by their creation helped and now in their old age illustrate the civilization which is ours. We are bound to respect those monuments as far as war allows."

Let's hope and pray that Trump would listen to Ike's words and come to a similar conclusion about Iran's heritage.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Breezy Wednesday.	
86°	74°	87°	75°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:57 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. A possible thunderstorm is noted a little over 200 miles to the southeast, moving west. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 18 to 24 knots through the lowest 5 thousand feet. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 10 feet composed of a north swell and trade-wind waves and swell from the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	67° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	35° / 22°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	67° / 60°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°	
London	Rain	55° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	60° / 48°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	89° / 76°	
Melbourne	Sunny	85° / 63°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 70°	
New York	Sunny	33° / 24°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	53° / 45°	
Paris	Cloudy	55° / 52°	
Busan	Clear	45° / 37°	
Rome	Sunny	54° / 34°	
Salem	Cloudy	45° / 39°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	56° / 52°	
Seoul	Sunny	35° / 26°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	56° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	37° / 23°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:12 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.61	
8:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72	
1:35 PM	LOW TIDE	1.08	
6:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.76	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:55 AM	5:30 PM
Saturday	-	6:54 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	-	7:51 AM	7:34 PM
Monday	-	8:46 AM	8:36 PM
Tuesday	-	9:36 AM	9:36 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily		SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
					SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1		OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6		TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7		3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR		OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
					UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Mabalay wins Dandan Middle School's GeoBee

Bianca Nicole Mabalay, a sixth-grade student at Dandan Middle School, won first place in the school-level competition of the National Geographic's GeoBee last December 2019.

Reineer John Anciado, a sixth-grade student, won second place in the same competition, while Joaquin Ian Cruzana, another sixth-grade student, finished third place.

Mabalay, including other school champions across the nation, will later take an on-line qualifying test; up to a hundred of the top test scores in each state then become eligible to compete in the State GeoBee. The winners of the State GeoBees receive an all-expense-paid trip to participate in the GeoBee national championship in the spring of 2020. Student will be competing for cash prizes, scholarships, and all-



Bianca Nicole Mabalay, a sixth-grade student at Dandan Middle School, is presented with her certificate after winning first place in the school-level competition of the National Geographic's GeoBee last December 2019.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

expenses-paid expedition to the Galapagos Islands aboard the National Geographic vessel *Endeavor II*. Learn more at www.natgeobee.org.

The school competition

is the first round in the annual National Geographic GeoBee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Ques-

tions cover not only geography, but also ancient and world civilizations, cultures, and physical features.

The National Geographic Society developed GeoBee in



Participants in Dandan Middle School's National Geographic GeoBee last December 2019 show their certificates of participation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN)
Plaintiff) CIVIL ACTION
-v-) NO. 01-0044
LUIS A. SASAMOTO)
Defendant)

SIXTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on March 8, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal Description of the property: Lot no. 060 T 01, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 060 T 00 dated October 12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 91-083, dated January 3, 1991, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property: 10,000 square meters

Known encumbrances: Defendant is believed to be the owner an undivided one-half interest in the property.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of January 2020:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

ROBERT T. TORRES (F0197)
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750
Attorney for Co-Administratrixes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE: ESTATE OF
ANTHONY ROY
TILIPAO LIMES,
Deceased.

) CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0164
) NOTICE OF MOTION TO REOPEN
) PROBATE TO RECEIVE AND
) DISTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL REAL
) PROPERTY DISCOVERED
) POSTFINAL DISTRIBUTION.
)
) Date: January 23, 2020
) Time: 10:00am
) Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

The Co-Administratrixes and sole heirs in this estate, Elizabeth Limes Semens and Dolores Tilipao Limes, through counsel Robert T. Torres, hereby move the Court to reopen proceedings pursuant to Rule 22 Com. R. Prob. Proc. The motion is made for the Probate Court to receive and distribute additional real property to the Co-Administratrixes and the attending portion of land compensation proceedings with the CNMI Department of Public Lands. Respectfully submitted this 26th day of December, 2019.

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita



REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Special Board Meeting – December 4, 2019
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
 1. Finance Committee –
 - a. Fund Status Report – December 2019
- 4) **New Business**
 1. Tokyo Olympics PATA Micronesia Pavilion
 2. 2020 Taste of the Marianas Stage, Sound and Lighting
- 5) **Old Business**
- 6) **Executive Session**
- 7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

1989 in response to concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. Over more than three decades, more than 120 million students have learned about the world through participation in the GeoBee.

National Geographic also offers classroom resources, student experiences, and professional development opportunities for educators.

To learn more about the National Geographic Society, visit www.nationalgeographic.org. (PR)

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**MARIANAS
PUBLIC LAND
TRUST,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CLARISSA M.
FEJERAN and
WATSON SAM,
Defendants.**

**Civil Action
No. 10-0312
NOTICE OF
AUCTION and
JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 15th day of January, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **16th day of February, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Tract 21988-18, (part of original Tract 21988, AH 623) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2004/84, the original of which was recorded on November 18, 1983, as Documents No. 83-239 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, fax or by e-mail to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 11th day of December, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PLATA DRIVE, WHISPERING PALMS (CHALAN KIYA)
P.O. BOX 503758 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-7859
FACSIMILE: (670) 234-5749

CIVILLE & TANG, PLLC
SIRENA PEREZ CASSIDY, F0338
330 HERNAN CORTEZ AVENUE, SUITE 200
HAGATNA, GUAM 96910
TELEPHONE: (671) 472-8869/69
FACSIMILE: (671) 477-2511

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**ANZ GUAM, INC.,
formerly known as
CITIZENS SECURITY
BANKS (GUAM), INC.,**

**Civil Action
No. 00-0296 D**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**JESUS T. LIZAMA dba
VICTORIA HOTEL,
J&JEV ENTERPRISES,
INC.**

Defendants.

**(FOURTH AMENDED)
NOTICE OF AUCTION
and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Amended Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on 30th day of January, 2001, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC. ("ANZ"), in the above titled action from Defendants JESUS T. LIZAMA DBA VICTORIA HOTEL AND J&JEV ENTERPRISES, INC., as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property filed on February 13, 2013, pursuant to 7 CMC § 4537(e) the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **16th day of January, 2020 at 10 a.m.**, at Victoria Hotel, located on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

PARCELS 1 & 2:

a. LOT 001 D 13, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 1), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

b. LOT 001 D 14, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 2), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

And immediately thereafter, the sale of the following parcel of property:

PARCEL 3:

c. TRACT 21732-9, part of original Tract 21732-R1, AH 140), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2085/84, the original of which was recorded 08 AUG 84 as Document No. 84-1439 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. All the property listed in this notice shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction, without any warranty being given, express or implied, with respect to the title, possession, and encumbrances, to satisfy the amount due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC. on the date of the sale under the Amended Judgment as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property. ANZ GUAM, INC. reserves the right to bid all or part of the amount due at the time of the sale.

3. Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the successful bidder. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff, ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC.

4. Inspection. Interested bidders may inspect the property at the following times:
Parcels 1 & 2: January 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
Parcel 3: January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

5. Change of Terms. ANZ GUAM, INC., reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

6. No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 17th day of December 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Business

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The first ride sharing application on Saipan, IslandRide of Digital Saipan, will formally launch the service next week, Jan. 17, 2020, at Saipan World Resort in Susupe from 9am to 12pm. Potential drivers and passengers are welcome to attend.

IslandRide is eyed as Saipan's version of Uber, Lyft, and Grab as it offers safe transport of people, goods, and services. Their pool of drivers will be private citizens and their cars. Plans of adding IslandRide's own fleet is also on the drawing board depending on the need of the market.

According to Digital Saipan marketing manager Robert Exley in a press release, the launch has been long time coming. "Digital Saipan now has the chance to officially unveil and share our new products as well as to teach Saipan the 'basics' of its use. We will also be unveiling new and exciting products from Digital Saipan."

"...if you are interested in driving full-time or part-time, please attend the event, visit our website at www.digitalsaipan.com or call (670) 287-9758," he added.

The IslandRide application or app will be available on both iOS and Android platforms though both Google Play Store and Apple App Store the launch date at ex-

actly 9am. "We encourage all to download it and take part in this exciting revolution in technology and transportation in the CNMI," Exley said.

With the IslandRide app, passengers can type their pick-up and drop-off locations. The estimated fare and time of arrival will appear, the nearest driver will appear with his information, and will respond and take the passenger to preferred destination. During the whole process, both driver and passenger are tracked by Digital Saipan through geo-location sharing that will let them know where both driver and passenger are at all times ensuring security.

In an earlier interview, *Saipan Tribune* learned that Digital Saipan is a software company and the knowledge and experience behind it is CEO/owner Kong Xi, who is from China and boasts 15 years of software development experience under his belt and also runs a software company in Beijing.

"In China, an ordinary day would be where you can step out of your house with just your phone because any transaction can be done through your smart phone whether you are buying groceries, paying bills, and getting a ride. I want to bring that technology and convenience to Saipan," he said.

"Saipan is a little island with a big need as there's a



BEA CABRERA
Digital Saipan owner and IslandRide CEO Kong Xi said "IslandRide is for everyone's security and comfortability."

IslandRide officially launches next week

lack of mass transit. We have the bus but it is only available in limited hours and areas, we have taxis but also limited and drivers are not vetted and of course, the sad existence of many illegal taxis," he added.

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For more information, call Exley at (670)287-9758 email: Robert@digitalsaipan.com or visit <http://www.digitalsaipan.com>

Commercial airlines reroute flights amid US-Iran tensions

NEW DELHI (AP)—Commercial airlines are rerouting flights throughout the Middle East to avoid potential danger during heightened tensions between the United States and Iran.

Jumbled schedules could affect as many as 15,000 passengers per day, lengthen flight times by an average of 30 to 90 minutes, and severely bruise the bottom line for airlines, industry analysts said.

There is anxiety that the conflict between the longtime foes could intensify following Iranian ballistic missile strikes Wednesday on two Iraqi bases that house U.S. troops. The attacks were retaliation for the U.S. killing of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike near Baghdad last week.

"In a war situation, the first casualty is always air transport," said Dubai-based



AP
In this Aug. 20, 2015 file photo, two Qantas planes taxi on the runway at Sydney Airport in Sydney, Australia. Some Asian airlines have rerouted flights to the Middle East to avoid Iranian airspace, amid escalated tensions over the United States' assassination of a prominent Iranian commander in Iraq.

aviation consult Mark Martin, pointing to airline bankruptcies during the Persian Gulf and Yugoslav wars.

At least 500 commercial flights travel through Iranian and Iraqi airspace daily, Martin said.

A Ukrainian passenger jet crashed shortly after taking off

from Iran's capital Wednesday killing 167 passengers and nine crew members just hours after Iran's ballistic missile attack, but Iranian officials said they suspected a mechanical issue brought down the 3½-year-old Boeing 737-800 aircraft. Ukrainian officials initially agreed, but later backed

away and declined to offer a cause while the investigation is ongoing.

Still, at least two Kazakh airlines—Air Astana and SCAT—were considering rerouting or canceling their flights over Iran following the crash, which killed all 176 passengers.

Poland's national carrier, PLL LOT, said Saturday that it was changing routes to bypass Iran's airspace.

A suite of other European carriers followed on Wednesday, and the restrictions were expected to "further depress" air travel between Iran and Western Europe, which saw strong growth after the Iran nuclear deal but a sharp dive when President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the agreement and reimposed sanctions, according to the Sydney-based Center for Aviation consultancy.

2019 Guam Business Magazine's Executive of the Year to be named

BARRIGADA, Guam—The 2019 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year will be announced at the Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year gala on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The nominees for this prestigious award are:

■ **Richard P. Chan**, president, Archway Inc., which does business as Infusion Coffee & Tea, I Love Guam, and The Beverage Source

■ **Dr. Michael W. Cruz**, president and CEO, Guam Regional Medical City

■ **Dean A. Huntsman**, general manager, Dusit Thani Guam Resort

■ **Annmarie T. Muna**, president and general manager, AM Insurance

■ **James I. Oehlerking**, CEO, PTI Pacifica, which does business as IT&E

■ **John R. Onedera**, country managing partner, Ernst and Young LLP

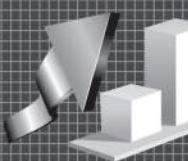
■ **Ryan F. Torres**, store manager of Macy's Guam

The winner will be revealed together with the release of the January-February 2020 issue of Guam Business Magazine, which will feature a commissioned portrait of the winner on the cover. Proceeds from the Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year gala will benefit the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Since 1983, the title of Executive of the Year has been awarded annually, recognizing executives who have made outstanding contributions to the business communities of Micronesia, have raised the bar in their fields and are considerably involved in the community.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact Steve Graff, managing editor of *Guam Business Magazine* at (671) 649-0883 ext. 126 or email managingeditor@glimpesofguam.com. (PR)

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

28,745.09
+161.41
.56%

S&P

3,253.05
+15.87
0.49%

NASDAQ

9,129.24
+60.66
0.67%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar 1.4554
British Pound 0.7626
Canadian Dollar 1.3032
Chinese Yuan 6.8052
Euro 0.8997

Hong Kong Dollar 7.7756
Indian Rupee 70.7443
Japanese Yen 109.2270
Malaysian Ringgit 4.0465
New Zealand Dollar 1.5043
Philippine Peso 49.6614

Russian Ruble 61.1971
Singapore Dollar 1.3500
South Korean Won 1137.78
Swiss Franc 0.9739
Taiwan Dollar 29.4417
Thailand Baht 30.2375

Nation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The standoff over President Donald Trump's impeachment trial deepened Wednesday as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said there will be "no haggling" with Democrats as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi demands for more details and witnesses.

McConnell's Senate majority has the leverage Republicans need to launch Trump's trial toward swift acquittal of the charges, but Pelosi's reluctance to transmit the articles of impeachment leaves the proceedings at a standstill.

What started as a seemingly minor delay over process and procedures is now a high-stakes showdown between two skilled leaders facing off over the rare impeachment trial, only the third in the nation's history.

"There will be no haggling with the House over Senate procedure," said McConnell, R-Ky., who met later Wednesday with Trump at the White House. "We will not cede our authority to try this impeachment. The House Democrats' turn is over."

Three weeks have passed since the House impeached Trump on the charge that he abused the power of his office by pressuring Ukraine's new leader to investigate Democrats, using as leverage \$400 million in military assistance for the U.S. ally as it counters Russia at its border. Trump insists he did nothing wrong, but his defiance of the House Democrats' investigation led to an additional charge of obstruction of Congress.

Senators from both sides are eager to serve as jurors for Trump's day in court. The trial



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., heads to a briefing with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and other national security officials on the details of the threat that prompted the U.S. to kill Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Iraq, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

IMPEACHMENT STANDOFF DEEPENS, testing McConnell and Pelosi

will be conducted in the Senate, where Republicans have a thin majority.

But even as McConnell spoke from the Senate floor, Pelosi, D-Calif., was giving no indication of her willingness to agree to his terms. In a closed-door meeting with the House Democratic caucus, she

spoke instead about the crisis in the Middle East, with Iran's retaliatory ballistic missile attacks on U.S. bases in Iraq, according to several Democrats in the room.

The impeachment timeline is complicating the political calendar, with the weekslong trial now expected to bump

into presidential primaries. Several Democratic senators are running for the party nomination.

Returning to Washington from the campaign trail, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., told reporters she was confident in Pelosi's plan.

"I have no doubt that she will get this right," Warren said. "Some things are more

important than politics, and the impeachment of a president is certainly one of those. No one is above the law, not even the president."

Another 2020 hopeful, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., said: "Those articles will come over here for a vote in due time."

The showdown is expected to be resolved this week, lawmakers said.

Pelosi wants McConnell to "immediately" make public the details of his trial proposal, according to a letter to colleagues. She wants to know how much time will be devoted to the trial and other details about the "arena" before announcing her choice of House managers to try the case in the Senate, according to Democrats familiar with the situation and granted anonymity to discuss it.

"Sadly, Leader McConnell has made clear that his loyalty is to the President and not the Constitution," Pelosi wrote to colleagues late Tuesday. She said the process he is outlining is "unfair."

The confrontation over a Senate trial had been building for weeks. But McConnell gained ground when he announced Tuesday that he has support from the majority of senators to start a trial structured like the last one, against President Bill Clinton in 1999. Those proceedings also began without an agreement on witnesses.

"We have the votes," McConnell told reporters.

It takes 51 votes for agreement on the trial proceedings, and with Republicans holding a 53-47 Senate majority McConnell has a slight advantage if he can hold GOP senators together. Democrats are trying to peel off support from a few Republicans to support their demands.

McConnell, who has resisted calling new witnesses, expects a speedy trial that will end with Trump acquitted of the charges. He complained about Pelosi's "endless appetite for these cynical games" and said it will be up to senators to decide if they want more testimony.

Case of 2 missing kids grows to include deaths, cult rumors

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Two dead spouses, two missing children and rumors of a cult. Confusion is growing around a series of mysterious deaths and the disappearances of a 7-year-old boy and 17-year-old girl that tie back to a couple who have since vanished themselves.

Joshua "JJ" Vallow and Tylee Ryan haven't been seen since September. Lori Vallow and her husband, Chad Daybell, never reported them missing and disappeared soon after being questioned about the children. What has followed is a twisted tale spanning two states that revealed the deaths of both their previous spouses, the couple's doomsday beliefs and children who slowly slipped away from relatives who are desperate to find them.

"All I want before I go is

just to see those children, and especially—and I'm being greedy—especially my boy JJ. My little man," grandfather Larry Woodcock said Tuesday at a press conference in Idaho announcing a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the kids.

Wife Kay Woodcock's brother, Charles Vallow, adopted JJ when he was a baby. Charles and his wife, Lori Vallow, also raised Lori's daughter from a previous relationship at their home in suburban Phoenix.

Lori Vallow was a hairdresser, always keeping JJ's hair trimmed and styled, Larry Woodcock said. The Woodcocks, who live in Lake Charles, Louisiana, visited their grandson often and shared frequent phone calls and video chats when they couldn't be there in person.

"I do know that Lori always

had the best, the absolute best interest in heart for JJ. She and Charles were the absolute best parents," he said.

But things began to change a few years ago, Kay Woodcock said. Her brother confided that he feared Lori was cheating on him with Chad Daybell, an author of several religious-themed fiction books about prophecies and the end of the world.

Charles Vallow eventually filed divorce documents in an Arizona court last February claiming that Lori believed she was a "translated being" and "a god assigned to carry out the work of the 144,000 at Christ's second coming in July 2020," The Arizona Republic newspaper reported.

He also accused Lori of threatening to kill him if he got in her way, prompting him to seek a protection order.

Appeals court keeps block of Trump immigration rule in place

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal appeals court in New York on Wednesday rejected a motion from the Trump administration that would have allowed it to implement a policy connecting the use of public benefits with whether immigrants could become permanent residents.

The ruling from the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the administration's motion to lift a temporary national injunction that had been issued by a New York district court in October after lawsuits had been filed against the new policy.

The new rule would potentially deny green cards to immigrants over their use of public benefits including Medicaid, food stamps and housing vouchers, as well as other factors.

The New York injunction

was one of several that were issued around the time the rule had been scheduled to go into effect in October.

But a regional injunction issued in California and another national injunction issued in Washington have already been lifted by other federal appeals courts. That left New York's as the only nationwide bar to the Trump administration putting the new rule into practice. An injunction in Illinois also is in effect, but applies only to that state.

The three-judge panel of the 2nd Circuit had heard arguments over the motion to lift the injunction on Tuesday.

Judges questioned the government's attorney on the timing—why the injunction needed to be lifted at this point when the lawsuit itself would be heard by a judge in com-

ing months.

Immigrants applying for permanent residency must show they wouldn't be public charges, or burdens to the country.

The new policy significantly expands what factors would be considered to make that determination, and if it is decided that immigrants could potentially become public charges at any point in the future, that legal residency could be denied.

Roughly 544,000 people apply for green cards annually. According to the government, 382,000 are in categories that would make them subject to the new review.

Immigrants make up a small portion of those getting public benefits, since many are ineligible to get them because of their immigration status.

World

At least 63 Canadians dead in Iran plane crash

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed his government will get answers after a Ukrainian passenger jet crashed, killing at least 63 Canadians, just minutes after taking off from Iran's capital.

Trudeau said Wednesday 138 passengers on the flight were connecting to Canada. The flight included many international students who were studying at universities across Canada. Newlyweds and a Canadian family of four were also on the flight.

Trudeau said his government is pushing to be part of the Iranian-led investigation of the plane crash near Tehran that killed everyone on board. Getting answers from Iran might prove difficult as Canada closed its embassy in Iran in 2012 and suspended diplomatic relations.

The crash of the Ukraine International Airlines plane came hours after Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on Iraqi bases housing U.S. soldiers, but Iranian officials said they suspected a mechani-



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020

cal issue brought down the 3½-year-old Boeing 737-800 aircraft. Ukrainian officials initially agreed, but later backed away and declined to offer a cause while the investigation is ongoing.

"Canadians have questions and they deserve answers," Trudeau said.

Asked if he could say whether the plane was shot down or not, Trudeau said: "I cannot. It's too early to speculate."



would allow.

Canada is offering technical assistance to the upcoming investigation in Iran. Canada's Transportation Safety Board said it has appointed an expert to monitor the progress of the investigation by Iran's civilian aviation agency.

Aviation experts were skeptical about Iran's initial claim that the plane was brought down by a mechanical problem.

"Something unusual happened," Garneau said.

The plane carried 167 passengers and nine crew members from different nations. The Canadian flag on Parliament Hill was lowered to half-mast. The U.S. embassy in Ottawa also lowered its flag.

Canadian Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne confirmed at least 63 Canadians died and as more infor-

mation becomes available, including details on dual citizens, the number of deceased Canadians could change. U.S. President Donald Trump offered his condolences in a phone call with Trudeau on Wednesday.

It's one of the worst losses of life for Canadians in an aviation disaster. In 1985 a bomb exploded and killed 329 people aboard an Air India flight. Air India Flight 182 from Montreal to New Delhi exploded over the Atlantic Ocean near Great Britain on June 23, 1985. Most of the victims were Canadian.

The Tehran to Toronto route via Kyiv is an affordable route for Iranian Canadians and international students. There are no direct flights.

Payman Paseyan, a member of the Iranian-Canadian community in Edmonton, Alberta, said about 27 people from Edmonton, including a family of four that he knew, were on the flight. Mourners gathered outside Alberta's legislature on Wednesday night for a vigil.

Two professors from the University of Alberta, Pedram Mousavibafrooei and Mojgan Daneshmand, and their daughters Daria and Dorina died. Paseyan said he often would go to the gym with the father and described him as a nice guy who often visited his former restaurant with his family.

WORLD BRIEFS

US sanctions South Sudan's vice president over abuses

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on South Sudan's First Vice President Taban Deng Gai, citing his involvement in serious human rights abuses. It is one of the sharpest actions taken by the U.S. against South Sudan's government amid Washington's frustration over the country's failure to achieve a stable peace after its civil war. The Treasury Department statement asserted that Deng was involved in the disappearance and deaths of human rights lawyer Samuel Dong Luak and opposition member Aggrey Idry in 2017. It also asserted that he has acted to divide the armed opposition in South Sudan, extending the country's five-year civil war that killed nearly 400,000 people. In a response to the U.S. announcement, the press secretary for Deng, Agel Machar, told The Associated Press the sanctions "are as unfortunate as they are misplaced," noting his former role as chief peace negotiator for the armed opposition. Deng also has willingly accepted to step aside from his role as first vice president for the sake of peace, the press secretary said, to make way for opposi-

tion leader Riek Machar.

Car bomb kills 3, wounds 6 at checkpoint in Somali capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A car bomb exploded at a checkpoint in Somalia's capital Wednesday morning, killing three people and wounding six others, a local official said. The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group quickly claimed responsibility. Salah Omar, a spokesman for Mogadishu's mayor, told The Associated Press the blast occurred as soldiers conducted searches at a checkpoint. He said the bomb attached to the vehicle was remotely detonated. Among the dead were two government officials including an adviser of the parliament speaker and a ministry department director, said Ahmed Mohamednur, a Somali lawmaker. Al-Shabab often targets checkpoints, hotels and government offices in Somalia's capital despite being pushed out of Mogadishu years ago. Wednesday's attack follows a devastating truck bombing in Mogadishu on Dec. 28 that killed at least 78 people, including many university students. It was the worst attack in Mogadishu since the devastating 2017 truck bombing that killed hundreds.

EU chief warns UK must compromise to get Brexit trade deal

LONDON (AP)—Three weeks before Britain is due to leave the European Union, the president of the European Commission warned Wednesday that the U.K. won't get the "highest quality access" to the European Union's market after Brexit unless it makes major concessions. In a friendly but frank message to the U.K., Ursula von der Leyen said negotiating a new U.K.-EU trade deal will be tough. She also said the end-of-2020 deadline that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has imposed on negotiations makes it "basically impossible" to strike a comprehensive new agreement in time. Von der Leyen, who took over as head of the EU's executive branch on Dec. 1, met Johnson at 10 Downing Street in London on Wednesday for the first time since the British leader's election victory last month. Johnson's Conservatives won a substantial parliamentary majority in Britain's Dec. 12 election, giving him the power to end more than three years of wrangling over Brexit and take the U.K. out of the EU on Jan. 31. It will be the first nation to ever leave the bloc, which currently has 28 members.

"Know that all Canadians are grieving with you," he said, addressing the victims' families.

Transport Minister Marc Garneau said soon after the departure of the plane contact was lost. He said the black box information is needed.

Authorities said they found the plane's so-called black boxes, which record cockpit conversations and instrument data. But it was not immediately clear how much access to the information the Iranians

UK's most prolific rapist targeted men, gets life in prison

LONDON (AP)—A man described as "the most prolific rapist in British legal history" has been sentenced to life in prison with a possible release after 30 years following his conviction for sexual offenses against 48 men.

Authorities said the evidence against 36-year-old Reynhard Sinaga indicates he had many more victims, with roughly 195 men apparently having been filmed while being abused when they were in his apartment. Many were unconscious at the time.

Judge Suzanne Goddard said in Manchester Crown Court the true number of Sinaga's victims may never be known.

"You are an evil serial sexual predator who has preyed upon young men who came into the city center wanting nothing more than a good night out with their friends," she said. "One of your victims described you as a monster. The scale and enormity of your offending confirms this as an accurate description."

She said the courts had



This is an undated handout photo issued by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 of Reynhard Sinaga.

rarely if ever seen such a prolonged "campaign of rape." Reporting restrictions that had prevented the publication of Sinaga's name were lifted Monday.

Prosecutors say Sinaga had a non-threatening manner. He befriended young men, including many who were intoxicated after a night out, and offered them a place to stay at his apartment. He

filmed many of the forced sexual encounters.

Prosecutor Ian Rushton said many victims initially thanked Sinaga for offering them accommodation.

"But once back at his flat, he used victims as objects purely for his own gratification," Rushton said.

Sinaga arrived in Britain from his native Indonesia on a student visa in 2007. He received two degrees in sociology and planning from the University of Manchester and was studying for his PhD at the University of Leeds when he was suspended following his arrest in 2017.

His thesis was called: "Sexuality and everyday transnationalism. South Asian gay and bisexual men in Manchester."

His Manchester church offered a statement in support of his character that did not seem to sway the judge.

"It is almost beyond belief that someone who could profess some Christian faith could at the same time have been committing such wicked and evil crimes," she said.

Focus

TEH RAN, Iran (AP)—Iran struck back at the United States early Wednesday for killing its most powerful military commander, firing a barrage of ballistic missiles at two Iraqi military bases that house American troops in what the Iranian supreme leader said was a “slap” against the U.S. military presence in the region.

The dramatic blast of more than a dozen missiles caused no casualties, however, and U.S. President Donald Trump said hours later that Iran “appears to be standing down.”

It was a signal that both sides were stepping away from an immediate spiral of more direct exchanges that could throw the Middle East into great turmoil.

Speaking at the White House, Trump said the U.S. would impose new “punishing economic sanctions” on Iran to force it to stop its nuclear program and what he called its “hostilities” in the region. But he also said Washington was open to a deal with Tehran.

Iran, in turn, appeared to have calibrated its attack to avoid stoking further U.S. retaliation, giving some early warning to its Iraqi allies to avoid casualties.

“Last night they received a slap,” Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said of the Americans in a speech after the missile strikes.

He made clear that Iran’s actions were in response to the U.S. killing of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whose death last week in a drone strike in Baghdad prompted angry calls for vengeance and drew massive crowds of Iranians to the streets in mourning. Khamenei himself wept at the funeral in a sign of his bond with the commander.

“These military actions are not sufficient (for revenge). What is important is that the corrupt presence of America in this region comes to an end.”

Satellite imagery showed at least five impact sites on the Ain al-Asad base in Iraq’s western Anbar province, each leaving charred blast marks that damaged or destroyed buildings. One obliterated a structure in a row of buildings next to a line of helicopters, though none of the aircraft appeared damaged, according to the imagery provided by Planet Labs, Inc.

Iran’s foreign minister tweeted that Tehran had taken and “concluded proportion-



This satellite image provided on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, by Middlebury Institute of International Studies and Planet Labs Inc. shows the damage caused from an Iranian missile strike at the Ain al-Asad air base in Iraq. Iran’s actions were in response to the U.S. killing of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

Iranian leader calls MISSILE ATTACK a ‘slap’ at US bases

By NASSER KARIMI, AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

ate measures in self-defense,” adding that Tehran did “not seek escalation” but would defend itself against further aggression.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said he received notification from Iran just after midnight that its retaliation “was starting or would start soon” and would focus only on U.S. positions. The militaries of Finland and Lithuania, which had personnel at one of the targeted bases, said they received information about an imminent attack and had time to move to shelters or leave the base.

Iran’s attacks “appeared designed for maximum domestic effect with minimum escalatory risk,” said Henry Rome, analyst with Eurasia Group.

“For a president who wants to avoid a war in the Middle East during an election year, the Iranians have provided an off-ramp he will likely take,” Rome said.

Tensions have risen steadily in the Middle East since Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers.

The Iranian attacks on the

bases marked the first time in recent years that Iran has directly attacked U.S. positions rather than through proxies in the region.

Tehran and Washington have been at odds since Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution and the subsequent U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis.

Adding to the chaos, a Ukrainian airplane with 176 people crashed after take-off just outside Tehran on Wednesday morning, killing all on board, Iranian and Ukrainian officials said. Iran said mechanical issues were suspected, although Ukraine declined to offer a cause while an investigation continues.

The Boeing 737-800 had taken off from Imam Khomeini International Airport, bound for the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. The plane carried 167 passengers and nine crew members. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko said there were 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians and 11 Ukrainians on board—the Ukrainian nationals included two passengers and the nine crew. The rest were Swedish, Afghan, German and British nationals.

The U.S. Federation Aviation Administration earlier warned of a “potential for miscalculation or mis-identification” for civilian aircraft in the Persian Gulf. The agency barred U.S. carriers from flying over areas of Iraqi, Iranian and some Persian Gulf countries.

The U.S. has been deploying more troops in the region. U.S. Gulf allies that host thousands of American troops are concerned about a direct conflict. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have called for de-escalation.

“The situation is not currently a war situation,” UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei said, stressing that Iran is a neighbor and the last thing the country wants is more regional tension.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guard warned the U.S. and its allies against retaliating over the missile attack.

“We are warning all American allies, who gave their bases to its terrorist army, that any territory that is the starting point of aggressive acts against Iran will be targeted,” the Guard said in a statement

carried by Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency. It also threatened Israel.

The Iranians fired 15 missiles Wednesday, two U.S. officials said. Ten hit Ain al-Asad and one targeted a base in Irbil in Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdish region. Four failed, said the officials, who were not authorized to speak publicly about a military operation.

“As we evaluate the situation and our response, we will take all necessary measures to protect and defend U.S. personnel, partners and allies in the region,” said Jonathan Hoffman, an assistant to the U.S. defense secretary.

Your browser does not support the HTML tag. Try viewing this in a modern browser like Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Internet Explorer 9 or later.

Satellite image shows the damage caused from an Iranian missile strike. (Planet Labs Inc./Middlebury Institute of International Studies via AP)

Two Iraqi security officials said a missile appeared to have hit a plane at Ain al-Asad, igniting a fire. There were no immediate reports of casual-

ties from the attacks, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they did not have permission to talk to journalists.

Ain al-Asad was first used by American forces after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, and it later was used by American troops in the fight against the Islamic State group. It houses about 1,500 U.S. and coalition forces. Trump went there in December 2018, making his first presidential visit to troops in the region. Vice President Mike Pence also has visited.

As Iran reels from the loss of life in the plane crash, it is also contending with the aftermath of a deadly stampede Tuesday at Soleimani’s funeral in his hometown of Kerman, killing 56 people and injuring more than 200. Shortly after Wednesday’s missile attack, Soleimani’s shroud-wrapped remains were lowered into the ground as mourners wailed at the grave site.

“We tell our enemies that we will retaliate, but if they take another action we will set ablaze the places that they like and are passionate about,” Hossein Salami, who commands the Revolutionary Guard, told a crowd in Kerman.

The general’s funeral procession in major cities spanning three days was an unprecedented honor for Soleimani, seen by Iranians as a national hero for his work leading the Guard’s expeditionary Quds Force in the face of U.S. pressure.

The U.S. blames him for killing U.S. troops in Iraq. The Trump administration alleges he’d been plotting new attacks just before he was killed.

Many Sunni Muslims in the region, however, view him as a destabilizing figure who commanded dangerous and deadly Shiite proxy militias. Soleimani led forces supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad in that country’s civil war.

Since his killing Jan. 3, Tehran has abandoned the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. In Iraq, lawmakers and pro-Iranian factions in parliament have voted to oust American troops from Iraqi territory.

Kuwait said Wednesday that its state-run KUNA news agency’s Twitter account was hacked and posted a false story on U.S. troops withdrawing from the nation. The fake alert went out on its account, Kuwait said. More than 13,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Kuwait, with more now on the way.

Off The Wall

Christmas miracle for Florida dog whose heart stopped

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man was hoping for a Christmas miracle when his dog was attacked by another animal, and a team of veterinarians provided it.

The heart of Gerald Ford's 1-year-old French bulldog Neo stopped beating following the attack on Christmas Eve. In a rare occurrence, veterinarians at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine were able to revive Neo.

Research suggests that animals whose hearts have given out live full, healthy lives only 5% percent of the time.

The team of veterinarians

who worked on Neo said he will be among them, although he did need a leg to be amputated.

"Typically when an animal passes and comes back, they have to be on a mechanical ventilator, a breathing machine," Dr. Bobbi Conner, a University of Florida professor and vet specializing in emergency medicine told The Gainesville Sun.

Ford had let Neo outside on Christmas Eve to do his business on his 12-acre property in White Springs, Florida, a rural area between Jacksonville and Tallahassee.

Ford said he found it odd when Neo didn't come back, but he left the front door to his home open a crack so Neo could let himself in. In the middle of the night, Ford said he heard a thud on the front porch and opened the door to see Neo covered in bite marks and losing blood.

Ford said he wasn't sure what animal attacked Neo.

"I'll never forget the look on his face," Ford said. "It was like he was saying, 'Help me.'"

The veterinarians told Ford Neo would adapt to having three legs, and Ford said he has no doubts.

In this Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020 photo, Gerald Ford holds his dog Neo, a French bulldog, at the Small Animal Hospital in Gainesville, Fla. **AP**



Florida woman accused of throwing human feces at landlord

OSTEEN, Fla. (AP)—A Florida woman tossed a bucket of human feces at her landlord and somehow ended up with dried excrement smeared all over her own face, authorities said.

Joanne Mercader, 59, initially told deputies that her landlord first assaulted her with excrement, according to an arrest report from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office.

"She took the poop and she rubbed it on my face," Mercader told the deputy. A deputy's body camera showed her face covered with dried hu-

man waste. Mercader's landlord, a woman who was not identified, had wet feces on her face, the report said.

"She's dripping with it," the deputy said.

Mercader eventually told deputies that she had intended to toss a bucket of water on the landlord, whose name was redacted from the arrest report, but she got confused and threw the bucket of feces at her.

Mercader told deputies she knew the landlord would be angry, so she ran into the bathroom, where the landlord

spread excrement on her face.

The deputy said Mercader's story still didn't add up.

The landlord told deputies she was met with the bucket of feces in her face when she opened the door Saturday after no one answered. She said she had prearranged the visit to Mercader's home to look at several broken items.

The deputy is heard on video saying, "There is poop everywhere."

"It's a really crappy situation," the deputy said. His supervisor paused, then replied: "Yeah. Do the right thing."

Florida mom hits jackpot: 2 sets of twin boys born in 2019

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Doctors told a Florida woman she had a better chance of winning the lottery than of giving birth to two sets of twins in the same year.

But Alexzandria Wolliston said she won the jackpot with the births of Mark and Malakhi in March and Kaylen and Kaleb in December.

"Oh, yes, I feel like I hit the twin lottery," Wolliston told WPTV.

The tired mom says her 3-year-old daughter helped her prepare for the double dose of twins.

"She was actually worse than them, so she was like having two babies in one," Wolliston said.

Two months after the first set of twins arrived, Wolliston said she learned about the second set. They were born in West Palm Beach on Dec. 27. Wolliston said Kaleb was dismissed from the hospital on

Monday and she's hoping to bring Kaylen home soon.

She said she recently learned that both of her grandmothers lost twin boys at birth, which makes her believe her four babies are a blessing from above.

"I always say that I feel like my grandmothers gave me their kids because two sets of twins and their twins passed away," she said. "I feel like they just sent them down for me."

Feds, Colorado seek answers in mysterious drone sightings

FORT MORGAN, Colo. (AP)—Groups of drones have been spotted buzzing over rural parts of northeastern Colorado and western Nebraska for weeks, unnerving residents. Now, U.S. officials are working with state and local authorities to determine who is behind the mysterious nighttime flights.

Morgan County Sheriff David Martin hosted a closed-door meeting with law enforcement agencies and government officials Monday to talk about the recent sightings.

The drones reportedly have 6-foot (2-meter) wingspans and fly in grid-like patterns hundreds of feet in the

air in groups of six to 10. The Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Air Force and the U.S. Army Forces Command have said they do not have information about the aircraft.

"We take every drone-sighting report seriously," the FAA said in a statement after Monday's meeting. "Multiple FAA divisions are working closely with federal, state and local stakeholders to try to determine whether the reported sightings in Colorado and Nebraska are drones and, if so, who is operating them and for what reason."

The FAA said it has con-

tacted drone test site operators and drone companies but has not determined if they were behind the flights. The agency also has been in touch with several airports in the area, warning pilots to be cautious and asking them to report any sightings.

Meanwhile, the Phillips County Sheriff's Office in northeastern Colorado posted on Facebook that a task force has been organized and is asking the public to be on the lookout for a "command vehicle" that is operating the drones. The vehicle could be a closed box trailer with antennas or a large van that seems out of place, the post said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Florida police respond after parrot cries, "Let me out!"

LAKE WORTH BEACH, Fla. (AP)—When someone in a Florida neighborhood heard chilling cries and the words "Let me out!" they dialed 911. Little did they know the cries were that of a 40-year-old parrot named Rambo. After the call, four Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies pulled up and questioned a man who appeared to be repairing a car in his driveway. The Palm Beach Post reports that when the deputies explained their concerns, the man smiled, then told deputies he'd introduce them to the perpetrator. When he returned with the parrot, the deputies burst out laughing. The man told officers that he taught Rambo to scream "Let me out!" when he was a kid and Rambo lived in a cage. PBSO officials could not be reached for more details. The agency did tweet a link to a video Saturday, saying, "Our deputies in Lake Worth Beach came to the help of someone screaming for help. Hilarity ensued."

2 men accused of gluing winning numbers onto lotto ticket

FLOWOOD, Miss. (AP)—Authorities in Mississippi say two men attempted to scam the state lottery commission by submitting a losing ticket that had the winning numbers glued onto it. Odis Latham, 47, and Russell Sparks, 48, were arrested Monday and charged with offenses including uttering counterfeit instru-

ment over \$1,000. The state lottery commission called Flowood police about the fake ticket earlier that morning, Sgt. Adam Nelson said. Officers were told the suspects presented an altered \$100,000 ticket that appeared to have the winning numbers glued onto it. The men, both of Columbus, were set to appear in court Tuesday. It's unclear if they have lawyers.

Police: Man gets arrested in attempt to support jailed lover

LANCASTER, Ky. (AP)—Authorities in Kentucky say they've arrested a man who wanted to go to jail to support his jailed girlfriend. Raymond Pace, 47, was charged with offenses including possession of methamphetamine, heroin and drug paraphernalia, news outlets report. Pace called authorities Saturday to report a stolen laptop, according to a statement by Garrard County police. Officer Steven Debord arrived to find an intoxicated Pace requesting to be jailed for several months to support his girlfriend, who Pace said was serving five months in jail, according to the statement. Pace explained that he needed to be jailed with her so she would not be stressed, police said. Pace shoved the officer in an attempt to be arrested, but the officer demurred until Pace pulled out a bundle of drug paraphernalia, police said. It's unclear if Pace has a lawyer or if he has been able to see his girlfriend. The woman's identity was not immediately made public.

Science & Technology

CES show: Voice for the gas pump, sensors for the plant

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A connected world means paying for gas with your voice and sensing when a plant needs water.

The annual CES technology conference in Las Vegas runs through Friday and offers a forum for big companies and start-ups to unveil their products and services for the coming year.

Here are some highlights from the show:

ALEXA AT THE PUMP

If swiping a credit card is too much of a chore, you'll soon be able to pay for gas by voice.

Later this year, those who have Amazon's voice assistant Alexa in their cars will be able to drive into Exxon and Mobil stations and say, "Alexa, pay for gas." Alexa will then ask you to confirm what station you're at and which pump you're using. The card on your Amazon account card will get charged.

Sorry, but Alexa won't pump gas for you. You'll need to get out of the car for that.

The new feature is part of Amazon's push to get into



AP
An employee holds a tablet showing a video demonstrating the Alexa pay for gas feature in the Amazon booth at the CES tech show, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, in Las Vegas.

more cars. At CES, the online shopping giant announced several deals with automakers, including bringing Alexa to Lamborghinis and its Fire TV streaming service to BMWs.

Amazon says the gas station feature will be available at 11,500 U.S. locations.

WATER ME

Not all of us can tell when a plant needs more water, less light or perhaps is too warm.

For that, Luxembourg start-up Mu Design has created the Lua smart plant pot to give greenery an animated face. Emotions, such as thirsty, sick

or cold, are displayed on a digital screen.

"It transforms the needs of the plant into emotion that you can easily understand," said Vivien Muller from Mu Design. "So you won't be able to

kill your plants. You just have to look at it and you'll know exactly what it needs."

An accompanying app lets users generate information specific to that plant. The pot itself is fitted with sensors to monitor moisture, light and temperature.

The device is expected to ship in March for \$110.

BODY ASSIST

Flying cars and self-driving trucks, stand aside. Companies at CES are also trying to help the mobility of your own body.

Samsung showed off an exoskeleton system called GEMS, or Gait Enhancing & Motivating Sytem. It uses small motors connected to your hips or knees to help you lift those limbs and complete exercises.

The company envisions GEMS will be helpful for people with limited mobility and those in physical therapy or rehab from surgery. But GEMS is still early in devel-

opment and doesn't yet have a release date.

Meanwhile, Startup Unlimited Tomorrow has designed a prosthetic arm created with a 3D printer. The arm senses grip and is connected to the cloud for regular, personalized software updates. Those updates help fine-tune grip and movement for each person. The arm goes on sale later this year for about \$5,000.

Segway has a completely different approach to helping people with challenges getting around.

The company, known for its stand-up motorized vehicles, unveiled the S-Pod, a motorized seated scooter on two wheels that somewhat resembles the chairs from futuristic movie Wall-E. Riders sit in the pod and steer with a small controller.

The S-Pod will go on sale later this year to commercial customers. The company envisions it being used in airports or enclosed corporate campuses.

TECH Q&A Doing the 'shuffle' with music and photos

By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



Q: I like to use the "shuffle" option for music on my iPhone and photos on my digital picture frame. But I've noticed that I'm hearing the same songs and seeing the same photos more often than I should if they were really being played randomly. This seems to defeat the purpose of the "shuffle" command. Is there anything I can do about this?

A: I suspect that the "shuffle" behavior you're hearing and seeing really is random. It's just not in the way you expect.

Why? Just as cards are put into a random order when the deck is thoroughly shuffled, the playing order of your songs or photos becomes random after you "shuffle" them.

But to get a truly random experience in which each card, song or photo is "played" only once, you must go through the entire deck of cards, music library or photo collection in one sitting.

Most people have such large song or photo collections that it would take too long to play them all in one go.

Here's the catch: The next time the iPhone or digital picture frame is put on shuffle, it doesn't resume playing the songs or photos in the same sequence as before. The shuffle command has created an entirely new random playing

order that has no relationship to the previous one. As a result, songs or photos that played in the previous shuffle may soon reappear in the new one. Alas, there's no fix for this. While you can "pause" an individual song or photo and return to it later, you can't pause a shuffle sequence. Every time you choose "shuffle," it's a brand-new deal.

Q: I turned off automatic Windows 7 updates years ago, and I've been safe despite not getting security updates. Why can't I continue to be safe after security updates are discontinued Jan. 14?

A: The threat is much worse now. By some estimates, there are nearly 200 million PCs still running Windows 7. That's a big target for hackers. If a new Windows 7 security flaw is discovered after updates cease, it could be a disaster for lots of people.

Q: I used Microsoft Office for Mac for years. After I switched to the online Office

365, hundreds of my old documents and spreadsheets were missing. What can I do?

A: I suspect it's a file format problem. If so, you can get your old files back.

If you were using Office 2004 for Mac, it stored your files using old file suffixes (for example, ".doc" for Word documents, or ".xls" for Excel spreadsheets.) Newer versions of Office replaced ".doc" with ".docx" and ".xls" with ".xlsx". By default, new Word and Excel programs look for the new file formats and ignore the old ones, which makes it seem as if the old files are missing.

Try this fix. When you begin to open a Word or Excel file, you'll see a box with a list of available files. In either program, you'll see a drop-down menu to the lower right of the list of files. In both Word and Excel, use that drop-down menu to choose "all files" instead of "Word documents" or "Excel files." That will cause all your old files to reappear.

Science Matters

Best plants for a growing dinosaur

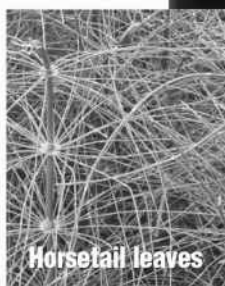
The long-necked sauropod dinosaurs, among the largest animals that ever lived, ate only plants — but what plants could nourish such a monster, particularly when young and growing fast?

Researchers compared different plants that lived in Age of Dinosaurs for their nutritional value and digestibility for immature, growing sauropods

Top rated food: Horsetails

Equisetum, a spore-bearing plant; popular names: "scouring rush" and "horsetail"

Highly digestible, nutritious; low-growing, easily reached by young dinosaurs



Horsetail leaves



Horsetail stems



No. 2: Ginkgo

Fruit-bearing leafy tree with edible nuts; used today as an ornamental



No. 3: Conifers



No. 4: Ferns



No. 5: Cycads

Source: Carolee Gee, University of Bonn; sauropod illustration by Jon Hoad; TNS Photos; US Navy Graphic; Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

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Life & Style

Prince Harry and Meghan to 'step back' as senior UK royals

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, say they plan “to step back” as senior members of Britain’s royal family, a stunning announcement that underscores the couple’s wish to forge a new path for royals in the modern world.

A statement issued Wednesday evening by Buckingham Palace, described as “a personal message from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex,” said Harry and Meghan intend to become financially independent” and to “balance” their time between the U.K. and North America.

“After many months of reflection and internal discussions, we have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution,” the statement said. “We intend to step back as ‘senior’ members of the royal family and work to become financially independent, while continuing to fully support her majesty the queen.”

The 35-year-old Harry, the youngest son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, is Queen Elizabeth II’s grandson and sixth in line to the British throne. With his

ginger hair and beard, he has become one of the royal family’s most popular members.

Before marrying the prince in a royal wedding watched around the world in 2018, the 38-year-old Duchess of Sussex was an American actress known as Meghan Markle and a star of the TV show “Suits.” The couple’s first child, Archie, was born in May 2019.

In their statement, the couple did not reveal where in North America they plan to make a second home, but they cited their baby as a reason why they decided to live part of their time outside Britain.

“This geographic balance will enable us to raise our son with an appreciation for the royal tradition into which he was born, while also providing our family with the space to focus on the next chapter, including the launch of our new charitable entity,” it read.

Hours later, Buckingham Palace issued a second statement, hinting that the first had caught some in the royal household by surprise. The statement said discussions with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were “at an early stage.”

Google told to turn over Smollett emails

CHICAGO (AP)—A judge has ordered Google to turn over a year’s worth of Jussie Smollett’s emails, private messages, photographs and location data to a special prosecutor who is looking into why prosecutors abruptly dismissed criminal charges against the actor.



Smollett

homophobic attack, in which one of the men looped a rope fashioned as a noose around his neck.

In the warrants, Webb seeks information from the Google accounts of Smollett and his manager, including unsent draft emails and deleted messages. He also requests files from their Google Drive cloud storage services, Google Voice texts, and web browsing history.

On Wednesday, the Chicago Tribune reported that it had obtained two search warrants submitted by special prosecutor Dan Webb and signed off by Cook County Judge Michael Toomin last month.

Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx’s office filed and quickly dropped 16 counts of disorderly conduct against Smollett for allegedly staging a January 2019 attack in downtown Chicago and lying about it to police. Toomin appointed Webb months later and the warrants offer the first public hints about what he has been investigating.

When the charges were filed, Chicago police alleged the black and openly gay Smollett—unhappy with his salary and hoping to promote his career—paid two brothers to stage what appeared to be a racist and

and his manager, including unsent draft emails and deleted messages. He also requests files from their Google Drive cloud storage services, Google Voice texts, and web browsing history. Webb has not publicly discussed the investigation and Smollett has maintained his innocence. But the fact the warrants seek data between November 2018 and November 2019 suggests investigators could be trying to support the original police allegation that Smollett planned and helped stage a fake attack.

It remains unclear if Google has turned over the information. In approving the warrants, Toomin ordered Google not to disclose the order, saying that doing so “may jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation”. A Google spokesman told the Tribune that he could not comment on requests for records from law enforcement.

“We understand their desire to take a different approach, but these are complicated issues that will take time to work through,” it read.

Harry and his family skipped the queen’s traditional Christmas gathering at her Sandringham country estate last month to visit Canada and to see Markle’s mother, who lives in California. Meghan grew up in Los Angeles and lived in Toronto while filming “Suits.”



In this Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 file photo, Britain’s Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex smile during their visit to Canada House, in London.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Rita Rosario Camacho

Lovingly known as “Nan Rita”

Born on May 16, 1941

Called to Life on December 31, 2019



In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Juan Castro Camacho & †Josepha Rosario Camacho
Brothers and Sisters: †Juana R. Camacho; †Thomas R. Camacho & †Caridad T. Camacho; †Ana R. Camacho; †Lodrigio R. Camacho & †Soledad B. Camacho; †Antonio R. Camacho; †Merced R. Camacho
Grandchildren: †Juan C. Camacho, †John Robert Nawaz
Son-in-Law: †David Wabol Nekaifes, Jr.; †Juan Celis Cabrera

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren:

Josephine C. and Ramon S. Basa
 Rodney (children), Rowena/Robert (children), Lora Jean (children)(grandchildren), Juan/Jadine (children), Ignatia/Frank (children)
James R. and Martha Camacho
 Cecilia/Lloyd Scott (children), Eric/Grace (children), Darcy/Luke (children), Joaquin (children), Christopher/Verna (children), Jaime, Jaimilice/Anthony, Trinity, James Lebron, Joseph Jr., Marjony Val
Juan R. and Diana L. Camacho
 Leavilyn/Julian (children), Lakisha, Leijuana
Charlotte DLC. and Rab Nawaz
 Frank/Janey, Ohmar/Roberta (children), Shawn, Leila
Anthony R. Camacho
 Roxanne/AJ (children), Isable/James (children), Lorilyn/Leo, Anthony Jr., Jessie Mark
Wayne C. Lizama and Sandra Dela Cruz
 Mercedes, Jessie Wayne, Wayomi Kiara, Wayan Vickilyn, Wayne Jr., Rosa, Zyrese Tate
Andy R. and Melissa C. Camacho
 Anica (children), Jonathan/Kina (children), Samuel, Andy Jr., Anissa
Zina C. Nekaifes and Paul Pedro
 Jayson, Teisha Helena/Justin, Hector/Coryn, Zared David Xavier, Davin Zachary, Zayden Darren, Davizin Carmen Zareena
Christiana T. and Shawn T. Babauta
 Ethan, Sofia
Barbara
Extended Family: Alicia A. Bisnar
 Delbert T. Pua

Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Roque Parish from Monday to Friday at 6:00p.m., Saturday at 6:00a.m., Sunday at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of her daughter, Zina Camacho Nekaifes located at Kagman III. On Saturday, January 11, 2020, her remains will leave the CHCC Morgue at 7:30 a.m. and will be escorted to San Roque Parish.

Responso and recitation of the holy rosary will take place upon arrival. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00a.m. Interment services will follow at the San Roque Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
*Children, Grandchildren,
 Great Grandchildren, & Family*



Brazil judge orders Netflix to remove film with gay Jesus

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A Brazilian judge on Wednesday ordered Netflix to stop showing a Christmas special that some called blasphemous for depicting Jesus as a gay man and which prompted a gasoline bomb attack on the satirists behind the program.

The ruling by Rio de Janeiro judge Benedicto Abicair responded to a petition by a Brazilian Catholic organization that argued the “honor of millions of Catholics” was hurt by the airing of “The First Temptation of Christ.” The special was produced by the Rio-based film

company Porta dos Fundos, whose headquarters was targeted in the Christmas Eve attack.

Netflix told The Associated Press it would not comment on the ruling.

Porta dos Fundos also declined to comment on the judge’s decision, which contradicted an earlier

decision rejecting censorship of the program. The ruling is valid until another court orders otherwise.

Abicair said the program’s withdrawal “is beneficial not only to the Christian community, but to Brazilian society which is mostly Christian.”

The ruling comes at a time when

some civil groups say far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is waging a “cultural war,” cutting funding for arts projects that challenge “Christian values” and inveighing against flamboyant carnival celebrations.

Early on the day before Christmas, a group of hooded men attacked the headquarters of Porta dos Fundos with Molotov cocktails. No one was hurt. A video circulating days later on social media showed three men claiming responsibility for the attack.

The First Temptation of Christ depicts Jesus returning home on his 30th birthday and insinuates he is gay. Religious groups bristled at the depiction. Creators of the film have defended it as legitimate freedom of expression.

Jazz legend Ellis Marsalis retiring from regular gig

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Ellis Marsalis, a New Orleans musical legend and patriarch of one of the most famous jazz families, is taking a retirement—of sorts.

He’s no longer doing the weekly gig he’s had for more than three decades.

Marsalis has performed at Snug Harbor on Frenchman Street every Friday for more than 30 years. But

the Times-Picayune / The New Orleans Advocate reported

Wednesday that Marsalis

told the club’s proprietor late

last year it had

become too

exhausting to play his usual two

75-minute sets every Friday evening

at the club, and he no longer wanted

to do it.

Marsalis

The 85-year-old ended his three-decade run of weekly shows at Snug Harbor on Dec. 27 with two sold-out shows, the newspaper reported.

“We figured out that he’s had a regular night at Snug Harbor since the late 1980s,” Snug Harbor proprietor Jason Patterson told the newspaper. “That is a long time.”

Marsalis will continue to perform on occasion. He intends to make about two monthly appearances at the club as a “special guest.” Other acts will sit in with him for 35 minutes per set.

Four of his six sons are musicians: Wynton, a trumpeter; Branford, a saxophonist; Delfeayo, a trombonist; and Jason, a drummer. And he’s helped nurture countless musicians over the years in various educational roles at Xavier University in New Orleans and the city’s elite arts high school, the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

Some of his students include trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard; pianist and vocalist Harry Connick Jr.; saxophonists Donald Harrison and Victor Goines; and bassist Reginald Veal.



‘Modern Family’ to bid farewell in April series finale

This image released by ABC shows the cast of the ABC sitcom “Modern Family,” from left, Reid Ewing, Ariel Winter, Ty Burrell, Julie Bowen, Eric Stonestreet, Nolan Gould, standing left center, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Aubrey Anderson-Emmons, standing center right, Jeremy Maguire, Sarah Hyland, seated holding baby, Sofia Vergara, Rico Rodriguez and Ed O’Neill. The comedy will air its series finale after 11 seasons on April 8, the network announced on Wednesday.

AP

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—“Modern Family” will air its finale after 11 seasons on April 8, and there are no spin-offs in the works involving its large cast.

Eric Stonestreet jokingly pitched one featuring Cam and Mitch, the gay couple played by him and Jesse Tyler Ferguson, after executive producer Steven Levitan told a TV critics meeting on Wednesday that nothing is planned.

The Pritchett-Dunphy-Tucker clan isn’t done traveling, though. They visit Paris in an episode airing Feb. 12, continuing their tradition of trips to such places as Australia, Hawaii, Las Vegas, New York and Wyoming.

“I was able to do a lot of shopping,

so it was perfect,” said Sofia Vergara, who became a breakout star when the series began in 2009.

The show starring Ed O’Neill was an immediate hit and holds the record with “Frasier” of five straight Emmy Awards as television’s best comedy.

Levitan and co-creator Christopher Lloyd knew from the start the show would include a gay couple who adopts a baby.

“When we locked it in, I remember saying to Chris, ‘Well, there goes Middle America,’” said Levitan, whose concern proved to be unfounded. “We got zero blowback. They were embraced because here was this couple, their first priority was their baby and raising it and do-

ing it right, and people said it was hard to argue with that.”

Stonestreet added: “We were able to make all the same mistakes raising a child that everyone else did.”

The younger cast members, including Rico Rodriguez, Ariel Winter and Nolan Gould, grew up on the show. Sarah Hyland, who was 18 when “Modern Family” began, mentioned the “keyboard trolls” who criticized the changing appearances of her and Winter over the years.

“Between the two of us, we have gone and tackled them with all of our spite and wit,” Hyland said.

Rodriguez credited O’Neill, who was sick Wednesday, for taking him under his wing as a 10-year-old

newcomer.

“Some of the jokes would just fly right over my head,” Rodriguez said. “He was always there for me.”

Before the finale, ABC is presenting a fan-curated tribute on March 11. The network will kick off the night in prime time with the series’ very first episode, followed by favorite episodes that fans get to vote on next month.

The cast will soon be leaving behind the security provided by being on an enduring hit.

“I had been working almost 20 years when I got lucky with ‘Modern Family,’” Vergara said. “I might never get a job again, but now I have the money and I can sit in my house.”

Trebek: ‘Jeopardy!’ retirement isn’t imminent despite cancer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The brief farewell that Alex Trebek says will close his final “Jeopardy!” episode isn’t on the horizon.

“I don’t foresee that 30-second moment coming up in the near future,” Trebek said Wednesday, referring to his request for time to close out his decades-long run with the quiz show.

While treatment for pancreatic cancer is taking a toll, Trebek said he’s not ready to retire although he’s mulled it in recent years. He spoke during a panel promoting “‘Jeopardy!’ The Greatest of All Time” with top contestants Ken Jennings, Brad Rutter and James Holzhauer. The prime-time contest is airing this week on ABC.

“When you’ve been in the same job for that long period of time and

you’re in advanced years, it behooves you at some point to think about retiring. Now, thinking about retiring and retiring are two different things,” he said. “As long as I feel my skills have not diminished too much, and as long as I’m enjoying spending time with bright people like these three (contestants) ... then I’ll continue doing it.”

Harry Friedman, the program’s long-time executive producer, said no successor was lined up.

Trebek, 79, was candid when asked about his health. He announced his pancreatic diagnosis last March, and said Wednesday he’s between progress reports.

“Some days are better than others. My resistance is lower than most of you, of course, because of the treatments I’ve been having, the chemo-

therapy and, as you can tell, the cold that seems to be going around. But this is the second time I’ve had it in the past month,” he said, his voice slightly hoarse.

“They’ve taken me off one of my chemo drugs, which was killing me,” he said, adding that he’s having tests done Thursday and “then maybe another week or so before I find out where things stand.”

He also was candid about less debilitating effects of disease and its treatment, including the hair loss that’s been covered by a wig and a deep tan cast to his skin. He also expressed concern about his recent performance on “Jeopardy!”, which he began hosting in 1984.

“I seemed a little slower in the ad-lib portions. I could still deliver

the clues at a rapid pace ... but I feel that I was not having one of my best weeks. Some weeks are good, some weeks are bad, but it comes with the territory,” he said, conceding that his wife didn’t share his assessment.

Neither does Rutter, who first competed on the show in 2000 and is the all-time top money winner.

“He’s absolutely the best who’s ever done it. He’s very modest. He’ll tell you that you don’t owe him anything. But we all do,” Rutter said. “There wouldn’t be any ‘Jeopardy!’ without Alex. And ‘Jeopardy!’ changed my life.”

Trebek was asked what he’ll do when he does retire. “Drink,” was his straight-faced reply.

“No,” he added. “I’ll work around the house.”

Oscars to go hostless for 2nd straight year on ABC

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The Oscars are going without a host again this year.

ABC Entertainment President Karey Burke said Wednesday the Feb. 9 telecast will focus on what worked last year: “huge entertainment value, big musical numbers, big comedy and star power.”

Last year’s ceremony attracted 29.6 million viewers, the second-smallest in Oscars history but 12% more than in 2018, which ended a four-year slide in viewership. Comedian Kevin Hart was originally announced as host, but he backed away when some anti-gay tweets he posted a decade ago resurfaced.

ABC and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences agreed to go hostless

for a second straight year, Burke said.

“We expect that we’re going to have a very commercial set of nominations,” Burke told a TV critics meeting, “and a number of elements have come together that convinced us we’ll have a very entertaining show.”

Nominations will be announced on Monday.

Last year’s Emmy Awards also went without a host. ABC is televising this year’s ceremony on Sept. 20, and Burke was asked if she had any idea who might preside.

“Baby Yoda,” she joked, referring to the infant version of the “Star Wars” character that became an instant sensation on Disney Plus’ “The Mandalorian.”

Girlfriends of R Kelly fight inside singer’s Chicago condominium

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago police say two girlfriends of R. Kelly fought Wednesday inside the embattled singer’s Trump Tower condominium, resulting in one of the women being taken to a nearby hospital.

Authorities didn’t identify the women, however police called to the condo said a 22-year-old female and a 24-year-old were engaged in a physical altercation when they arrived. The 22-year-old says the two were engaged in a verbal argument that became physical when the 24-year-old struck the younger woman in the face.

They were separated, after which the 24-year-old fled and isn’t in custody. The 22-year-old female was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital

where she was reported in good condition. Authorities say their investigation continues.

Kelly, 53 on Wednesday, is being held without bond in Chicago’s Metropolitan Correctional Center, about a mile from his condo. He is charged with a variety of crimes in three states. Kelly has pleaded not guilty to federal charges in Chicago and New York of a racketeering scheme to sexually abuse girls. Kelly is also accused in Minnesota of offering a 17-year-old money in 2001 to take off her clothes and dance. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A documentary series chronicling Kelly’s alleged sexual abuse of minors is currently being aired on Lifetime.

Justin Bieber says he’s battling Lyme disease

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber says that he has been battling Lyme disease.

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, the pop star wrote that “it’s been a rough couple years but (I’m) getting the right treatment that will help treat this so far incurable disease and I will be back and better than ever.”

Lyme disease is transmitted by Ixodes ticks, also known as deer ticks. Lyme can cause flu-like conditions, neurological problems, joint pain and other symptoms.

“While a lot of people kept saying



Bieber

Bieber looks like (expletive), on meth etc. they failed to realize I’ve been recently diagnosed with Lyme disease, not only that but had a serious case of chronic mono which affected my, skin, brain function,

Bieber wrote.

The Grammy-winning singer said he will discuss battling the tick-borne infection on his upcoming YouTube docu-series, “Justin Bieber: Seasons,” which debuts Jan. 27. The 10-episode show will follow Bieber while he creates his new album and will also highlight his private life.

Texas city paid Enrique Iglesias \$485,000 for 2015 concert

MCALLEN, Texas (AP)—A South Texas city used \$485,000 in taxpayer money to pay singer Enrique Iglesias to perform at a holiday concert in 2015, according to contract details made public this week.

McAllen officials have been concealing Iglesias’ contract terms, citing exceptions in the Texas Public Information

Act. But a broad transparency measure that went into effect this week closed some of what critics called gaping holes in the state’s open-records laws.

City Attorney Kevin Pagan said the law “no longer excepts from disclosure” Iglesias’ contract.

A bill Democratic state Sen. Kirk Watson, of Austin,

penned made many details of a contract between a private entity or person and government agency public, including cost, certain communications and bids, while also protecting trade secrets and proprietary information.

Iglesias’ contract revealed that McAllen provided the artist with a chartered flight

from Guadalajara, Mexico, purchased 24 hotel rooms for two nights, and offered him a variety of sushi and sashimi.

“Residents finally are getting to see how their taxpayer money was spent on this entertainment event,” said Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Lizzo, Billie Eilish, Aerosmith to perform at Grammy Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Billie Eilish and Lizzo, both nominated for the top four prizes at the Grammy Awards, are slated to perform at the live show later this month. The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that couple Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton will hit the stage together at the Jan. 26 event, airing live on CBS from the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Aerosmith—to be named 2020 MusiCares Person of the Year days before the Grammys—will perform a medley of their hits during the awards show. Alicia Keys will host the Grammys for a second time. Eilish and Lizzo, the leading nominee with eight, will compete for album of the year,

song of the year, record of the year and best new artist. More performers will be announced at a later date.

OK boomer: ‘thirtysomething’ sequel to reunite original cast

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—ABC has given the go-ahead to a pilot for “thirtysomething(else),” a sequel to the series that followed a group of baby boomers and their struggles. The show will feature a group of new actors playing the grown-up, 30-something children of the original cast. Ken Olin, Mel Harris, Timothy Busfield and Patricia Wettig have signed on to reprise their roles. The Philadelphia-set series that ran from 1987-91 earned 13

Emmy Awards, including best drama, and two Golden Globes. “I’m very excited. We’re all very excited,” Busfield said Wednesday when he appeared at a TV critics meeting to promote his other new ABC show “For Life.” Soon after “thirtysomething” debuted, its title became a catchphrase to describe baby boomers in their 30s. Original creators Marshall Herskovitz and Ed Zwick are returning, and Zwick will direct.

Eilish leads iHeartRadio Music Awards with 7 nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Billie Eilish came away with the most nominations for the upcoming iHeartRadio Music Awards. iHeartMe-

dia announced Wednesday that Eilish received seven nominations. The singer will compete for female artist of the year and song of the year with “bad guy.” Lil Nas X and Lizzo are each nominated six times. The awards will air live March 29 on Fox from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Lil Nas X will compete for song of the year with “Old Town Road.” Other song-of-the-year nominees include Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello’s “Señorita,” Jonas Brothers’ “Sucker” and “Truth Hurts” by Lizzo. Eilish will face off against Taylor Swift, Lizzo, Halsey and Ariana Grande for female artist of the year. For the men’s top artist award, Ed Sheeran, Khalid, Luke Combs, Post Malone and Mendes will vie for the honor.

Ashes have waited 30 years to be scattered over Hawaii

DEAR ABBY: Thirty years ago, a friend of my husband’s roommate passed away of AIDS and was cremated. His family had ostracized him. I have no idea who they are or where they are. The roommate left and later died, also from AIDS. He left his friend’s ashes in his old room in my husband’s house in the San Francisco Bay area with instructions to scatter them in Hawaii.

The ashes have been sitting reverently in a cardboard box on a shelf in our several homes for all these 30 years. We are still together, but getting old. There is no paperwork of any kind. All we know about the deceased is his name and the fact that he was a friend.

Before I die, I would like to resolve this problem and arrange for the ashes to have a permanent resting place, preferably in Hawaii. I have a nephew who lives on the Big Island, where the scattering should take place. How should I proceed, in light of the no paperwork problem?

MIKE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MIKE: I applaud your caring heart and your determination to carry out this man’s last wishes. I took your question to Joshua Slocum, executive director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, and this is what he told me:

“There is no impediment to your taking the ashes and placing them where you wish since there are no relatives who have an interest in them. If you plan to carry them on an airplane, be sure to have them in a scannable

container -- nothing metal or such heavy earthenware that an X-ray scanner would be prevented from seeing inside. There is no requirement that you carry a death certificate, or any other certificate, with you. You do not need ‘papers’ to walk around with an urn or to travel with one.

“As far as scattering goes, people scatter ashes all the time. Cremated remains are sterile calcium and no threat at all to the environment. While public lands usually discourage, or prohibit by rule, scattering of ashes, it is common practice that cannot be stopped. Use discretion and care -- there is no such thing as ‘ashes police.’”

DEAR ABBY: I am older and on a fixed income. At times I still date, and I’m not sure how to handle this. After one or two dinners out or glasses of wine, etc., I feel my dates are waiting for me to treat them, and I can’t afford it. I don’t know how to explain that I don’t have enough money to do that.

I’m a very giving person, and I would love to make them dinner if I knew them better. One time I brought someone a huge amount of beautiful organic vegetables, but that wasn’t enough. He was really upset I didn’t buy him wine on one of the dates. What to do?

REALLY WISH I COULD

DEAR REALLY WISH: The person who was really upset that you didn’t buy him wine on one of those dates should have been told that you are on a fixed income and it

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

wasn’t within your budget. You should also have told him you were reciprocating within your ability. If he needed a drink that badly, he could have paid for his own. You’re lucky to be rid of him.

In the future, TELL the man you are seeing that after you know him better, you would love to treat him to some home-cooked meals, which might actually be nicer than what you can afford to buy him in a restaurant. He might appreciate both your candor and the food. If he doesn’t, I think you will be lucky to be rid of him, too.

P.S. Have you considered paying the tab for a casual breakfast, lunch or a coffee/pastry date instead of dinner?

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



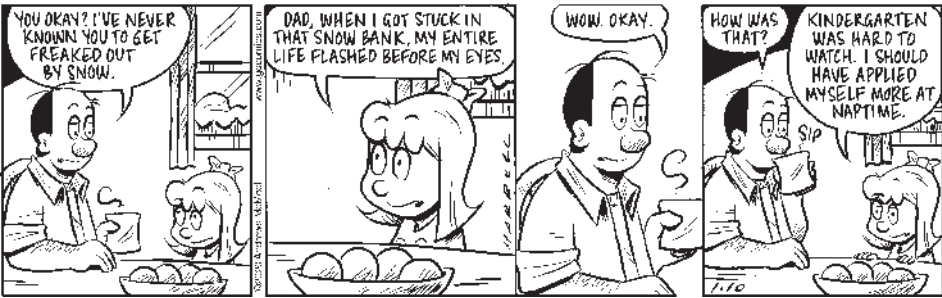
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 CIA operative

4 Rx writers

7 Quartz variety

12 "Home-land" org.

13 Deluge refuge

14 Firms up

15 Rocker Rose

16 Curly-haired lap dog

18 Pensioned (Abbr.)

19 November birthstone

20 Imperfection

22 Floral garland

23 Sidewalk eatery

27 Ninny

29 Bit of scribbling

31 First American orbiter

34 Passion

35 Bribe money

37 Monk's title

38 Phoenix cagers

39 Tic-tac-toe loser

41 Cilium

45 Parsley piece

47 Ruby of films

48 Stick-in-the-mud

52 "— a Camera"

53 Photo book

54 Moray, for one

55 Flamenco cry

56 Use the rink

57 Hwy.

58 Tax form ID

2 Computer screen

3 1945 conference site

4 "The Martian" actor

5 Slobbers

6 Video chat format

7 Whole range

8 Stickum

9 Moreover

10 — Aviv

11 Jargon suffix

17 Picked up the tab

21 Magic sticks

23 Pink hue

24 Annex

25 "Alice" waitress

26 Always, in verse

28 NBC weekend show

30 Rowing tool

31 "Pyg-malion"

32 Singer Reed

33 Ages and ages

36 Big fair, for short

37 Thwarted

40 Sequence

42 Francisco's farewell

43 Elite

44 Macho types

45 Not all

46 Hair goops

48 "Now, where — I?"

49 Yellowstone grazer

50 TV schedule abbr.

51 Fanatic

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Handler, 59; Pat Benatar, 67; George Foreman, 71; Rod Stewart, 75.

Happy Birthday: Engage in what makes you happy. Look at your options, and put your experience to good use. What you've learned the past few years will come in handy when dealing with people, cutting deals and taking care of yourself and the ones you care about most. Keep others guessing, and it will buy you time and leverage to excel. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 26, 31, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't leave any room for complaints. Take care of responsibilities, and get on with your day. If someone wants to start a fight, refuse to take part. Use your time wisely, and don't spend more than you can afford. Make personal improvements. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a change if it will help you take advantage of a unique opportunity. Speak up about your feelings, intentions and plans, and you will get positive feedback from someone who can help you turn your dream into a reality. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your charm, looks and finesse to get what you want. Compliments and incentives will encourage others to help you. Taking physical action will help you get things done on time. Romance will make a difference in the response you receive. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If something is bothering you, speak up and air your feelings. The only way to get past a

situation is to communicate. Good relationships with the one or ones you love will make a difference to the way your day unfolds. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of your health. Physical fitness, proper diet, plenty of sleep and doing whatever you can to ease stress is encouraged. Don't let what others do stifle your plans or cause you to miss out on something you want to pursue. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lend a helping hand; the reward and satisfaction you receive will improve your day. Participating in events that bring joy to others or enhance your community or family will pay off. Show passion in all you pursue. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch out, and avoid getting into an argument or involved in a matter that doesn't concern you. Refuse to let anyone draw you into his or her drama. Meddling will lead to blame and bad feelings. Look inward, and focus on personal growth. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Discussions, research and asking questions will reveal information that will help you make a decision. Nothing will be as it appears; once the truth is out in the open, you will find a way to use the information to your benefit. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you want to know the truth, go directly to the source. Personal gain is possible if you are willing to move forward on your own. Trust and invest in yourself, not someone else's plan. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The element of surprise will work in your favor. Don't be too eager to share your ideas, plans or secrets. Put time aside to celebrate your victory with someone you deem unique. Remember to play as hard as you work. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The change that someone makes will be a sign of what's to come. Take time to relax and rejuvenate. You will get a much clearer picture if you are well-rested. Personal physical improvements are favored. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Engage in something that is unique, sparks your imagination and encourages you to interact with people who can contribute to whatever it is you want to pursue. Getting back to basics or reaching out to someone from your past is encouraged. *****

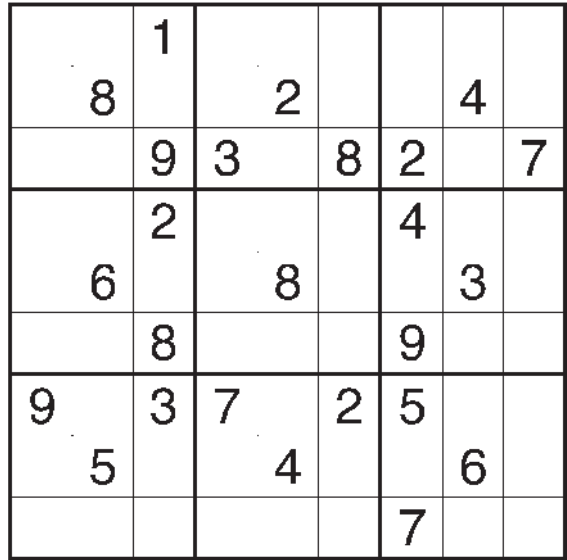
Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, passionate and useful. You are possessive and convincing.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



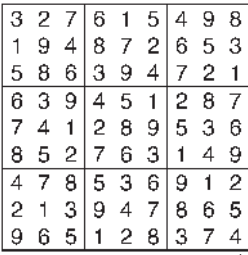
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Not Today Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DEBRETT'S PFERAGE

Solution: 11 letters



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Act. Andrew. Baron. Braye. Cambridge. Child. Claims. Coat of Arms. Command. Confer. Crest. Crimmon. Crown. Daere. Dame. Direct. Duke. England. Extinct. Family. Favor. Five. Guide. Harry. Heir. Honor. House. Huntly. Ireland. Kent. King. Legal. Life. Line. List. Lord. Noble. Peers. Philip. Queen. Realm. Robes. Roll. Royal. Seal. Seat. Tassel. Title. Writ. Yearly. York. Yesterday's Answer: Pampelonne. Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Must be well informed primarily about the CNMI market trends, Guam and Micronesia, identify shifts in the marketplace, and identify valuable emerging markets within the region; Manages the overall daily operations/management of CNMI operations to include Sales, HR and Operations Management; including compliance with local labor laws; monitoring workflow efficiencies, maintaining strong employee performance, controlling costs, providing training and direction to all front-line staff to provide excellent customer service; Develops and implements strategic marketing plans for the organization in a regional level, and stays abreast of changes in the marketing environment to best serve the objectives of the organization and adjust plans accordingly; Periodic travel and/or remotely manage the marketing division of the company which includes the Guam, CNMI, Palau and Federated States of Micronesia; Researches competitor pricing and develops pricing policies and recommends appropriate sales strategies to maximize profit potential for the organization; Recommends strategies to integrate into local regional marketing plans, and to evaluate productiveness and marketing initiatives ROI; Maintain and provide strength to company's brand position in assigned regional marketing areas; Head development and execution process of ethnic and other main focused marketing plans to reach vital customer segments; Accurately forecasting future sales and forming sales plans to adapt to constant shifts in the marketplace; Seeking out major clients, maintains and expands customer base, and forming working relationships with the premier vendors within the industry; Serving as a business representative at Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau meetings, major industry events, conferences, travel fairs, and expositions; Forming sales strategies to keep the company competitive and innovative, as well as developing specific plans to ensure growth both long and short-term; Managing and providing training for front line sales staff in order to maximize sales revenue and meet or exceed corporate goals; Forecasting annual, quarterly and monthly sales goals; Responsible for recruiting, selecting, orienting, training, assigning, scheduling, coaching, counseling, and disciplining employees; communicating job expectations; planning, monitoring, enforcing company policies and procedures; Achieves regional sales operational objectives by contributing regional sales information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews; preparing and completing action plans; implementing quality and customer-service standards; Responsible for senior level decision making and both day to day management and strategic direction of the organization; Strong working knowledge of local employment law issues and the ability to apply these to a variety of situations using a pragmatic and common-sense approach; able to problem solve both operational and strategic issues through a pragmatic and commercially sound approach; Ability to recognize the value and responsibility of working in a team, actively supports and develops team members, quick to identify and problem solve any issues.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Employer: Kylie's Bakery, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan
Position: Baker
Job Duties: Prepare, mix and bake ingredients to produce breads, rolls, cookies, cakes, pies, pastries or other baked goods.

- Roll dough in dough roller machine manually.
- Place dough in pans, molds, or on sheets and bake in production ovens manually.
- Place finished baked goods on a tray or plastic bags.
- Clean pans or molders after use.
- Prepare bread crumbs.
- Clean oven, mixer and dough roller machines after used.
- Prepare flour and other ingredients a day before production time (this includes lifting 20 lbs. or less of flour and other ingredients).
- Monitor supplies for replenishment.
- Clean production area all the time.
- Clean, arrange and organize stocks.

Qualifications/Requirements: Graduation from High School or completion of a GED Program with one (1) year of skilled experience as a baker with skills in operating commercial mixers, commercial dough rollers and 24-tray commercial gas ovens. Incumbent must have or be able to obtain a CNMI food handler certificate.

Application can be made in person
at Blue Spot Corporation, Satmonete Lane, Afetna Village,
San Antonio or by telephone at 670-285-2253,
Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
or by mail to Blue Spot Corporation,
P.O. Box 506343, Saipan, MP 96950
or by email to bluespotcorp@gmail.com.

Employer: Blue Spot Corp., Satmonete Ln, Afetna Village, San Antonio, Saipan MP 96950
Position: Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines
Job Duties: Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, backhoes and other heavy equipment.

- Repair and replace damaged or worn parts.
- Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturers' specifications.
- Operate and inspect machines or heavy equipment to diagnose defects.
- Read and understand operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings.
- Dismantle and reassemble heavy equipment using hoists and hand tools.
- Perform routine maintenance on equipment and determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed.
- Watch gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly. Service, repair, adjust, and test machines, devices, moving parts, and equipment that operate primarily on the basis of mechanical (not electronic) principles.
- Calibrate using calibration machine.
- Supervise assigned mechanic.

Qualifications/Requirements: Graduation from High School or completion of a GED Program with two (2) years of highly skilled experience as a heavy equipment mechanic in the maintenance and repair of mobile heavy equipment and the calibration of heavy equipment with a calibration machine.

Application can be made in person at Blue Spot Corporation, Satmonete Lane, Afetna Village, San Antonio or by telephone at 670-285-2253, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by mail to Blue Spot Corporation, P.O. Box 506343, Saipan, MP 96950 or by email to bluespotcorp@gmail.com.

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Returning Walker tossed, Spurs beat Celtics



BOSTON (AP)—Kemba Walker was ejected for back-to-back profanities, a fan was arrested for throwing a beer can, and Gregg Popovich didn't feel much like hanging around, either.

The San Antonio coach was understandably perturbed after the beer can sailed over the Spurs bench and landed on the court during a game-changing swing in Wednesday night's 129-114 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Celtics coach Brad Stevens said he apologized to the Spurs. Popovich spoke to reporters for 33 seconds, and did not address the incident.

"I told Pop after the game I'm really sorry that they had to experience that," Stevens said. "I hope that person's not allowed in an NBA arena again."

DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points for San Antonio, which scored 22 of the game's first 25 points to drop the Celtics into their biggest hole of the season. Boston cut the deficit to 76-69 midway through the third, when Walker was knocked to the court on a hard pick by LaMarcus Aldridge.

Walker rose from the court waving at the air, and approached referee Evan Scott. He got one technical and then—as Spurs guard Patty Mills tried to hold him back -- got a second less than four seconds later. Stevens was also given a technical.

"In real time, it's a difficult play," crew chief Rodney Mott told a pool reporter. "But we did deem the screen to be legal, as LaMarcus was set."

Both technicals were for profanity, Mott said. It was Walker's first ejection in his nine-year career.

"I thought I was being nice," said Walker, a two-time winner of the NBA's Joe Dumars Award for sportsmanship. "I thought the ref missed the call. The rest is history."

The game was delayed briefly while the court was cleaned up and the public ad-



San Antonio Spurs guard Lonnie Walker IV (1) drives between Boston Celtics center Tacko Fall (99) and guard Jaylen Brown (7) during the first half of an NBA game Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020 in Boston.

dress announcer asked the fans not to throw things. Celtics spokesman Christian Megliola said the fan who threw the can was promptly located and arrested; their identity was not immediately available.

"We can't have that," Boston forward Gordon Hayward said. "I love our fans. I love our passion. But we've got to stay away from that."

The hubbub halted a 20-7 run that erased most of a 20-point deficit. Aldridge made two of the three technical foul shots and, when when he missed the third, Derrick White was fouled and made both free throws to give the Spurs an 80-69 lead.

San Antonio soon went on an 11-0 run, and the Celtics never got within single digits again.

"That can energize the crowd, or energize the team," DeRozan said. "We held on and did what we were supposed to do."

Lonnie Walker IV scored

19 points for the Spurs, who improved to 9-6 since Dec. 1, when they had a 7-14 record. San Antonio avoided what would have been the first season sweep by the Celtics since 2011.

Hayward scored 18 points and Jaylen Brown had 16 for Boston, which has lost two in a row for just the third time this season.

Rockets 122, Hawks 115

In Atlanta, James Harden scored 41 points, including 22 in the first quarter, to lead the Houston Rockets over Trae Young and the Atlanta Hawks.

Harden had 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his second straight triple-double.

Young had 42 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. He and Harden are the first players to post 40-point triple-doubles in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The Hawks pulled within three late in the fourth quarter, the last time at 118-115 on

two free throws by Alex Len. Harden sank four free throws in the final 10.4 seconds.

Clint Capela had 22 points and 22 rebounds, and Ben McLemore had 18 points in Houston's third straight win.

Raptors 112, Hornets 110, OT

In Charlotte, Serge Ibaka made two free throws with 5.1 seconds left in overtime and finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds as banged-up Toronto edged the Hornets.

Terence Davis also had 23 points and 11 boards, OG Anunoby added 19 points and Kyle Lowry had 15 points and nine assists while having to play 43 minutes due to injuries. Patrick McCaw added 13 points and 11 assists as the Raptors avoided taking losses on back-to-back nights for the first time since Dec. 26-27, 2017.

Terry Rozier led the Hornets with 27 points, but his 3-point-er at the buzzer in overtime fell

short. Miles Bridges added 26 points and nine rebounds and P.J. Washington had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Heat 122, Pacers 108

In Indianapolis, Tyler Herro had 19 points, Duncan Robinson scored 11 of his 17 points in a decisive third quarter and seven Miami players scored in double figures in a win over Indiana.

Bam Adebayo and Derrick Jones each scored 18 points, Goran Dragic and Kendrick Nunn added 15 each and Jimmy Butler pitched in 14 for Miami.

The Pacers (23-15) were led by Domantas Sabonis, who finished with 27 points and 14 rebounds for his 30th double-double of the season.

Magic 123, Wizards 89

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic scored 29 points, Evan Fournier added 19, and the Magic beat Washington.

Admiral Schofield scored 18 points, and Troy Brown, Jr. had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards.

Orlando took control with a 23-5 run to close the second quarter for a 69-52 lead. The advantage ballooned to 29 points in the early stages of the third quarter.

A rash of injuries left the Wizards with only nine players available.

Nuggets 107, Mavericks 106

In Dallas, Nikola Jokic scored 26 of his 33 points in the second half, including the winning basket with 7.9 seconds left, and Denver pulled out a

win over the Mavericks.

Jokic backed down Dorian Finney-Smith on the right side of the lane and got a favorable bounce on his left-handed layup.

On the Mavericks final possession, Finney-Smiths pass from the baseline to Tim Hardaway Jr. was off the mark.

Luka Doncic led Dallas with 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds. The Mavericks played their fifth straight game without Kristaps Porzingis (right knee soreness).

Pelicans 123, Bulls 108

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram had 29 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and the Pelicans dealt Chicago its fifth straight loss.

JJ Redick hit six 3-pointers on his way to 24 points, while rookie Jaxson Hayes had 14 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks to help the Pelicans win for the seventh time in 10 games.

Zach LaVine scored 32 for the Bulls, who are in the midst of their longest losing streak this season. Thaddeus Young scored 18 in his return to the city where he was born.

Jazz 128, Knicks 104

In Salt Lake City, Emmanuel Mudiay scored a season-high 20 points against his former team, and Rudy Gobert added 16 points and 16 rebounds to power Utah past short-handed New York.

Mudiay, who played for the Knicks last season before signing with the Jazz in the summer, made 8 of 12 shots and added four assists.

Bojan Bogdanovic also scored 20 points and Donovan Mitchell had 16 in limited minutes for Utah, which has won seven straight and 12 of 13.

Bucks 107, Warriors 98

In San Francisco, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 12 rebounds while leading four Milwaukee starters in double figures, and the NBA-best Bucks held off Golden State.

Khris Middleton added 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Milwaukee.

Alec Burks scored 19 points and Glenn Robinson III and Damion Lee added 15 points apiece for the cold-shooting Warriors, who lost their sixth straight game and third in a row at home. Willie Cauley-Stein contributed 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Kobe helping MLS celebrate 25 seasons

NEW YORK— Retired NBA star Kobe Bryant, actor Colin Hanks and NFL receiver DeAndre Hopkins will be among those helping Major League Soccer celebrate its 25th season at events this year.

The North American league, which kicks off its 25th campaign on February 29, announced several events Wednesday paying tribute to the milestone campaign, which introduces expansion clubs Inter Miami and Nashville.

"Our 25th season will celebrate our rich history by honoring the countless people behind the growth of our league and reflecting upon many of the memorable moments in our history," said MLS commissioner Don Garber.

"During this season-long celebration, we'll also focus on our exciting future as we continue on our path to become one of the top leagues in the world."



Bryant, who won five NBA titles in 20 seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers before retiring in 2016, will attend a youth skills challenge event next week in Los Angeles at Banc of California Stadium, where the MLS All-Stars will face the Mexican League All-Stars on July 29.

Hanks, the son of iconic actor Tom Hanks, and Hopkins, who has helped the Houston Texans reach the

NFL playoffs last eight, will help unveil season jerseys next month at New York Fashion Week.

MLS will feature a special 25th-year crest and ball, which will use blue and green colors as the original league ball had in 1996.

MLS supporters will help determine the greatest goal over 25 MLS seasons as well as a list of the Top 25 MLS players from a quarter-century of matches.

Heisman reunion: 5 winners in Ravens-Titans duel



O W I N G S
MILLS, Md.
 (AP)—The top prize for individual excellence in college football is the Heisman Trophy. For the first time in the Super Bowl era, five winners of that prestigious keepsake are expected to suit up in the same game, each in pursuit of the NFL's most coveted team award—the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Baltimore will bring three Heisman winners (Lamar Jackson, Mark Ingram, Robert Griffin III) into Saturday night's playoff game against Tennessee, which has a pair of players (Marcus Mariota, Derrick Henry) who accepted the trophy presented annually to the most outstanding performer in college football.

"Five? I didn't even think about that," said Jackson, who won the 2016 Heisman with Louisville. "It's going to be incredible."

For all he accomplished at Louisville during that amazing season three years ago, Jackson would gladly trade his statue for the opportunity to hoist the trophy in Miami on Feb. 2.

"That's the trophy I want," Jackson said. "That's the best trophy you can get playing football. That's what I want, that's what the team wants, that's what we're going to get."

Jackson hopes to receive help from Ingram (Alabama, 2009) and backup quarterback Robert Griffin III (Baylor, 2011). Griffin will start on the bench against the Titans and Ingram is questionable with



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson, bottom, dives forward during a run as a host of Cincinnati Bengals defenders try to get to him during the second half of a NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, in Baltimore.

a calf injury, but earlier this season all three were in the backfield for what was dubbed "The Heisman Package."

Could we see it again this weekend?

"It could resurface but that's not my decision," Griffin said. "I know we're focused on beating the Tennessee Titans, and if the Heisman package is part of that, that's what we're going to do."

Griffin chuckled when asked the significance of having Baltimore's Heisman trio

being joined at the stadium by Mariota (Oregon, 2014) and Henry (Alabama, 2015).

"I wouldn't say we're getting dressed and going out on the field and saying, 'Oh man, there's five Heisman Trophy winners out there.' But it is a cool aspect of the game," Griffin said. "Maybe we'll get a picture after the game, but I know that's not what we're thinking about right now."

The Titans benched Mariota in mid-October after the

offense managed only one touchdown in a 10-quarter span and was coming off a shutout loss in Denver. Since being replaced by Ryan Tannehill, Mariota has been playing the role of the opposing quarterback on the scout team, this week doing his best imitation of Jackson for the Tennessee defense.

Mariota has played in each of the past two games, however, throwing a 24-yard pass to A.J. Brown in the regular-season finale win in Houston and

a 4-yard toss to Dion Lewis in last week's playoff win over New England. Mariota will hit the free-agent market in March.

Henry and Ingram both surpassed 1,000 yards rushing this year. The former Crimson Tide stars won't necessarily have to seek each other before Saturday's game because they just recently spoke.

"I talked to Mark the other day, and we were just catching up," Henry said.

Winning the Heisman Trophy automatically makes the recipient part of a very special club. That's why the modern football world has never before seen five Heisman winners in uniform at the same NFL game.

"There are only so few of us, and every year there's only one more," Griffin said. "So this game, it's something that you'll reflect on later in life and think, 'That was a really cool moment.' But when you're in the moment, it's not as if we're all walking around with HEISMAN on the back of our shirt or carrying our Heisman Trophies."

Like Jackson, Griffin wasn't even aware he was on the brink of sharing in a historic moment.

"If no one told me there were five Heisman Trophy winners in the game, it wouldn't click for me," RG3 said. "But yeah, now that people have been saying it, I'm honored to be part of that."

Facing former team

Meanwhile, Tennessee defensive coordinator Dean Pees still talks with his old

boss, Baltimore coach John Harbaugh.

Just not this week. Pees spent eight years working for Harbaugh first coaching linebackers and then defensive coordinator, helping the Ravens win a Super Bowl. He retired after the 2017 season, then quickly went back to work when Mike Vrabel asked Pees to be his defensive coordinator with the Titans only weeks later.

Now Pees is trying to help a third team reach a Super Bowl, hoping to add the Titans to his short list that also includes the Patriots, and his defense will be trying to slow down Jackson and the NFL's best offense on Saturday night in an AFC divisional playoff game.

"If you go out and play golf, I'd rather beat my brother at golf than somebody I don't know," Pees said Wednesday. "I'll be keyed up for it and want to get after them. At the same time, when it's over those people are still my friends."

The top-seeded Ravens (14-2) led the NFL in averaging 33.2 points and with 206 yards rushing a game. They finished second with 407.6 yards per game, too, with Jackson the favorite to be the league's MVP in just his second season after throwing an NFL-high 36 touchdown passes and running for 1,206 yards.

Pees and Vrabel, himself a former linebacker who played 14 seasons in the NFL, have been busy working on the challenge of slowing this offense. Creating new defensive schemes isn't really possible this deep in a season.

Brady says 'I still have more to prove' in Instagram post

BOSTON (AP)—Whether Tom Brady will return as quarterback of the New England Patriots next season is still an open question. But the 42-year-old on Wednesday gave another indication that he isn't done playing football.

In an Instagram post to fans, Brady said "I still have more to prove" following a season that ended with the Patriots failing to reach the Super Bowl for the first time since 2015.

"In both life and football, failure is inevitable," he wrote. "You don't always win. You can, however, learn from that failure, pick yourself up with great enthusiasm, and place yourself in the arena again."

New England's season ended with a 20-13 loss in the wild-card round to the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night. A six-time Super Bowl champion, four-time Most Valuable Player of the NFL title game and three-time winner of the league MVP,

Brady could become an unrestricted free agent for the first time in his career when his contract ends in March.

That has placed team owner Robert Kraft and coach Bill Belichick on the clock to either bring back Brady for his 21st season or watch the franchise's greatest player depart from the only team he's called home.

Belichick said this week that there isn't an established timeline to resolve Brady's status, but he acknowledged that his case is unusual.

"Everybody's situation is different," Belichick said. "Certainly, Tom is an iconic figure in this organization. And nobody respects Tom more than I do."

Meanwhile, Jim Schwartz began his NFL career as a gofer with the Browns. If he comes back, he can boss people around.

The Philadelphia Eagles' defensive coordinator, who started out as a scout and

errand runner under coach Bill Belichick in Cleveland, interviewed Wednesday to be the Browns' next coach. Schwartz has more head coaching experience than any of the other five candidates who have spoken to the team.

Schwartz had a five-year run as Detroit's coach, and he long has been regarded as one of the league's top assistants.

The 53-year-old is looking for another shot as head coach, and he could get the chance with the Browns, who are the only team still looking.

Owner Jimmy Haslam promised a "disciplined" and "thorough" search for his next coach last week, and there's no reason for the Browns to rush now that they don't have any competition and the field of available candidates has thinned with Washington, Carolina, Dallas and the New York Giants addressing their vacancies.

Schwartz is not considered a front-runner for Cleveland's job, but he does have

an impressive resume, which includes inheriting an 0-16 team in Detroit and taking it to the playoffs in his third season. Schwartz went 29-52 with the Lions.

After coaching in college, Schwartz joined the Browns in 1993 and worked with the team for three years before owner Art Modell moved the team to Baltimore, where he became the Ravens' outside linebackers coach. He was Tennessee's defensive coordinator and then got the Lions job in 2009.

Schwartz has spent the past four seasons with the Eagles, who have ranked in the top 5 in yards and points allowed three times with him in charge. He is under contract with Philadelphia through next season, but the club can't stop him from taking a head job with another team.

Eagles coach Doug Pederson is thrilled that Schwartz is getting a chance to sell himself to the Browns.

MLB to probe reports Red Sox stole signs



BOSTON

(AP)—Major League Baseball says it will investigate allegations the Boston Red Sox illegally used their video replay room to steal signs between opposing pitchers and catchers during their 2018 World Series championship season.

The claims were made Tuesday in a report by The Athletic. The website cited three anonymous sources it said were with the Red Sox during the 2018 season who said some players visited the replay room during games to get information on sign sequences.

Those sources told The Athletic that the Red Sox weren't able to do it during the post-season because of in-person monitors used by MLB in those games.

"The Commissioner made clear in a September 15, 2017 memorandum to clubs how seriously he would take any future violation of the regulations regarding use of electronic equipment or the inappropriate use of the video replay room. Given these allegations, MLB will commence an investigation into this matter," the league said in a statement.

The Red Sox said they will cooperate as MLB looks into the allegations.

"We were recently made aware of allegations suggesting the inappropriate use of our video replay room," the team said in a statement. "We take these allegations seriously and will fully cooperate with MLB as they investigate the matter."

The incident that prompted MLB's 2017 warning from Commissioner Rob Manfred to teams came after the Red Sox were fined an undisclosed



In this Sept. 19, 2019 file photo, Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora gestures toward the outfield after a win over the San Francisco Giants in a game at Fenway Park in Boston.

sum for sending electronic communications from their video replay room to an athlet-

ic trainer in the dugout" during an August 2017 series against the rival New York Yankees.

The New York Times reported that general manager Brian Cashman filed a com-

plaint with the commissioner's office regarding that incident which included video. The newspaper said it showed a member of Boston's training staff looking at his Apple Watch in the dugout and relaying a message to players.

Manfred said at the time that future violations would be subject to more serious sanctions, including possible loss of draft picks. He said last month that he has the authority to levy even stiffer penalties.

The latest allegations against the Red Sox come after The Athletic reported last month that the Houston Astros allegedly stole signs during home games of their 2017 World Series championship season by using a camera positioned in center field.

Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora was the bench coach for that team and has spoken with MLB. He has declined further comment on the matter.

Thames joins Nationals

Eric Thames still thinks about the eighth inning of the NL wild card game, when Milwaukee held a two-run lead against Washington and was four outs from advancing.

"I'll never forget that feeling of being heartbroken, seeing Juan Soto's base hit over my head," Thames said. "I thought we had this game."

Three months after the Nationals scored three runs on Soto's hit for a 4-3 win over the Brewers and went on to the franchise's first World Series title, Thames joined the team that knocked him out. Washington finalized a \$4 million, one-year contract with the first baseman, a deal that includes a \$3 million salary this year and a \$4 million mutual option for 2021 with a \$1 million buyout.

"Everybody, the whole media was against them throughout the world, everybody counted them out and they still fought back," Thames said. "That definitely shows how the team model, how their team atmosphere was."

Washington also completed a \$2.5 million, one-year deal to keep infielder Asdrubal Cabrera. He has the chance to earn \$500,000 in performance bonuses: \$125,000 each for 200, 300, 400 and 500 plate appearances.

The 33-year-old Thames had 25 homers and 61 RBI with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2019, his third season with that team. The lefty batter averaged 24 homers per season with the Brewers after returning to the majors from playing in South Korea.

Thames credited postseason star Howie Kendrick for helping recruit him.

"He kind of reached out to me. I've talked to him for years," Thames said. "He always talked about how fun the clubhouse was. ... You could just tell they played as a unit. So naturally, I love that, love playing in a clubhouse where guys care about each other on top of winning. So it was a no brainer for myself."

The 34-year-old Cabrera was a big part of Washington's surge to the World Series, hitting .323 with six homers and 40 RBI in 38 games after signing with the Nationals in August. He played primarily second base for the club, but also appeared at third base and first.

That was the switch-hitter's second stint with the club. He joins free agent Starlin Castro, top prospect Carter Kieboom, Wilmer Difo and postseason star Kendrick as players who could be used at second or third base.

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo Olympic athletes beware—particularly larger ones.

The bed frames in the Athletes Village at this year's Olympics will be made of cardboard. Sturdy cardboard.

"Those beds can stand up to 200 kilograms," explained Takashi Kitajima, the general manager of the Athletes Village, speaking through an interpreter.

That's about 440 pounds, and surely no Olympic athlete weighs that much.

"They are stronger than wooden beds," Kitajima added.

He also took into account the possibility of a wild room celebration after, say, a gold-medal victory.

"Of course, wood and cardboard would each break if you jumped on them," he said.

The single bed frames will be recycled into paper products after the games. The

Cardboard beds for Tokyo Athletes Village

mattress components—the mattresses are not made of cardboard—will be recycled into plastic products.

The mattress is broken up into three distinct sections, and the firmness of each can be adjusted.

The idea was to use materials that could be remade after the Olympics and Paralympics. But the cardboard frames and supports should give the rooms a spartan look.

Organizers showed off the beds and a few other furnishings on Thursday at their headquarters. The entire Athletes Village complex will be completed in June. The Olympics open on July 24 followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 25.

"The organizing committee was thinking about recyclable

items, and the bed was one of the ideas," Kitajima explained, crediting local Olympic sponsor Airweave Inc. for the execution.

Organizers say this is the first time that the beds and bedding in the Athletes Village have been made of renewable materials.

The Athletes Village being built alongside Tokyo Bay will comprise 18,000 beds for the Olympics and be composed to 21 apartment towers. Even more building construction is being planned in the next several years.

Real estate ads say the units will be sold off afterward, or rented, with sale prices starting from about 54 million yen—or about \$500,000—and soaring

to three or four times that much. Some fear the apartments will flood the market, possibly impacting property values.

The units will be sold off by various real estate companies. Ads suggest many of the units will be slightly larger than a typical apartment in Tokyo, which is about 60-70 square meters—or 650-750 square feet.

Meanwhile, the official posters are out for this year's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The 20 posters have been created by 19 artists in fields ranging from painting, graphic design and photography. Calligraphy and Japanese manga are also represented. Manga is the Japanese art of comics and

cartooning, which is very famous in the host country.

The posters were first put on display on Monday at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. They will remain on display at the museum in east Tokyo through Feb. 16.

The posters are a tradition at every Olympics and Paralympics, and many previous posters have become collector's items. The requirement to create posters is set out in the so-called "host city contract" in which the International Olympic Committee establishes the rules for the preparation and management of the games.

Of the 20 posters, 12 are based on Olympic themes and eight were inspired by the Paralympics. Several feature wheelchairs, including a graph-

ic vision of the violence in the sport of wheelchair rugby.

Many of the images are far from traditional, showcasing bright colors and curious forms. In many of the avant-garde images it is difficult to discern the exact tie to the Olympics or Paralympics. Very few even feature a prominent display of the Tokyo Olympic or Paralympic logos.

That also goes for the five Olympic rings, which are seldom featured.

Some of the titles are also eye-catching: "Space Kicker" by painter Shinro Ohtake; "The Sky Above the Great Wave off the coast of Kanagawa" by manga artist Hirohiko Araki; "Open" by calligrapher Koji Kakinuma; "Higher than the Rainbow" by photographer Mika Ninagawa; "Offense No. 7" by artist Tomoyuki Shinki; and "flow line" by graphic designer Daijiro Ohaha.



Eats Easy snaps Hoopaholics' winning streak

By **ROSELYN B. MONROY**
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REPORTER

Eats Easy moved up to solo second place in the team standings in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League after outclassing the Hoopaholics, 78-70, last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Eats Easy now has a 4-1 record, just slightly behind division leader Blue Eagle (4-0), while the Hoopaholics dropped to third after absorbing its first loss in four matches.

The trio of Prince Factor, Jun Fidelino, and Kobe Mendoza

teamed up in the victory, as all finished in double figures and hit key baskets in the fourth quarter to keep their team on top. Factor scored a game-high 23 points and tallied 5 markers in the final canto, while Fidelino made 7 of his 18 in the fourth frame. Mendoza added 19 points and had 4 in the finale canto that started with Eats Easy clinging to a 54-52 lead.

Shane Deleon Guerrero tried to overhaul the slim deficit in the fourth quarter, as he scored 10 points in that period, but the Hoopaholics still fell short, as only him and Alex Lauron hit more than one basket for the squad in the



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Eats Easy's Stephen Erdene takes a shot challenged by the Hoopaholics' Kelvin Fitial during their game in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

final 10 minutes of play.

Vision RNV 81, AK Toyota 63

In the other Open Division game last weekend, Vision RNV eased past Atkins Kroll Toyota.

Tristan Cosino starred in the victory after exploding for 34 markers, while Elmer Esdreton also had a good shooting night following his 24-point performance.

Cosino traded baskets with Don Brennan in the first period with the former firing 12 points and the latter hitting four triples and scoring 14. Despite Brennan's solid offensive game in the first canto, Vision RNV still took the lead, 23-16, as only Bobby Coldeen backed up his teammate. Cosino, on the other hand, had Errol Peredo, Ronald Rueda, and

Junar Guiab helping him out for their 7-point advantage.

Vision RNV went on to pad its lead in the ensuing quarters with Cosino still on fire and getting support from his teammates, particularly Esdreton, who finished off Toyota with his 13 points in the fourth period.

Toyota fell behind by double figures, as Brennan failed to sustain his strong start and his teammates did not pick up the slack.

Vision RNV improved to a 2-2 record, while Toyota fell to a 1-3 slate.

JSN 72, IT&E 61

In the Masters Division match last Saturday, JSN topped IT&E for its fourth victory in five games.

Jun Tabora, Randy Mungcal, and Jun Alipio scored in twin digits to lift JSN to the 11-point winning margin. Tabora had a game-high 22 points, while Alipio made 12, and Mungcal chipped in 10.

Tabora delivered 18 of his total production in the second half to keep JSN's distance against IT&E, which has only one win after three games.

MHS

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playoff round that will start today and run until tomorrow at the MHS Gymnasium.

The unbeaten squad eked out a 22-20 victory over Saipan Southern High School last Tuesday and then routed Mt. Carmel School, 35-13, in a make-up game on the same day to keep its record clean going into this weekend's playoffs.

Saipan Southern finished second in the team standings in the preliminary round, as it battled back from the loss to MHS Varsity with a 29-13 triumph over Mt. Carmel. The Lady Manta Rays earned a 9-3 record, while Mt. Carmel was ranked No. 6 with its 5-7 slate after losing its last two matches.

MHS Junior Varsity came in at No. 5 after getting a 7-5 slate and winning its final two matches last Tuesday. MHS

JV's pair of victories was against Kagman High School with the Lady Dolphins pulling off a 16-13 win in their first meeting before cruising to a 14-4 triumph in the second.

Kagman was winless in the preliminary round and will face MHS Varsity in the first round of the playoffs.

Agape Christian School, Grace Christian Academy, and Tinian High School are also competing in the playoff round and got the No. 3, 7, and 4 seed, respectively. Tinian did not join the preliminary games and automatically took the No. 4 seed in the playoffs where it will first face MHS JV.

Agape posted a 7-5 mark in the prelims after pulling off a 15-13 win over GCA dropped to a 2-10 mark.

Meanwhile, two other first round matches will be played today with Agape battling Mt. Carmel and Saipan Southern taking on GCA.

swam in a 50-meter pool and also competed in a tournament on Guam in May 2018.

Asaka tallied 1:09.08 in the girls 13 to 14's 100m freestyle for the second best time in field. She had the same feat in the 50m freestyle after clocking in at 31.81 seconds.

Asaka's younger sister, Shoko, posted 1:26.50 in the 100m backstroke for the second best in the 11 to 12 age group, while her 3:14.32 in the 200m breaststroke got her an AA time.

Zhang, who joined the races for the 15 to 16 age group, achieved a BB time in the 50m breaststroke (37.45 seconds), while Roberto earned an A time in the 100m freestyle (1:03.32).

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan thanked the management and staff of Pacific Islands Club for allowing its swimmers to continue training at their pool. The group also acknowledged the help of Aqua Resort Club.

"Without their support, Tsunami Saipan swimmers will not get these impressive results," Kimura said.

Serena stretched by McHale but wins again in NZ

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)— Top-seeded Serena Williams had her toughest workout of 2020 before beating fellow American Christina McHale 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals of the ASB Classic.

Williams dropped a set for the first time in singles or doubles this year and at times Thursday appeared to be fully stretched by the 88th-ranked McHale before finding the edge to win in just over two hours.

"It was a good match for me," Williams said. "I really need to play matches like that to get to my goal. Match time is good, but I'm just glad to still be out here after losing that first set."

Williams previously beat Camila Giorgi, 6-3, 6-2, in singles and combined with Caroline Wozniacki in the doubles to beat Nao Hibino and Mikoto Ninomiya, 6-2, 6-4 and then Caroline Dolehide and Johanna Larsson, 6-2, 6-1 to reach the semifinals.

She was under pressure early against McHale, who had two service breaks to lead 4-1 in the first set before Williams broke back. McHale broke again to take the set 6-3 but Williams began the second set strongly, leading 5-1 before leveling the match.

If Williams thought the struggle was over she was mistaken. She broke twice to lead 5-2 in the third set but McHale broke back in the eighth game.

Williams finally managed to overpower McHale, convert-

ing the second of three break points in the final game.

Wozniacki also dropped a set to an American opponent before booking a quarterfinal match against defending champion Julia Goerges.



The former No. 1 beat Lauren Davis, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, in a marathon match between players with similar styles. Even in a one-sided first set rallies were long and the final game lasted more than 10 minutes and contained eight deuces.



Serena Williams of the U.S. tosses the ball to serve during her second round singles match against her compatriot Christina McHale at the ASB Classic tennis in Auckland, New Zealand, Thursday, Jan 9, 2020.

Davis broke Wozniacki twice in the second set and was up a break in the third but Wozniacki fought back to snatch the win.

"There were frustrating times on court when I thought I was doing everything right and she was just playing better," Wozniacki said. "I just kept digging in there and I got a little lucky."

American teenager Coco Gauff was beaten, 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, by Germany's Laura Siegemund.

Neither player was able to take control of the match early on; the first set contained 48 unforced errors and Gauff achieved the only service break in the 12th game.

Siegemund played with more consistency in the second set, breaking Gauff at love to lead 4-1 and holding serve to level the match. She gained an early service break to lead 2-1 in the second set and held out Gauff's attempted comeback.

Gauff played too often to the German player's strong backhand and made too many mistakes, double-faulting to give Siegemund her first match point.

"That's the biggest thing that the conversation with my dad (Corey) was after the match," Gauff said. "I'm still learning and that's the problem that I have. He said I didn't play like I played in practice."

"I didn't play the right way and if I lost playing the right way it would have been fine, but I don't think I was playing the right way."



Returning Walker
tossed, Spurs
beat Celtics

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Heisman reunion:
5 winners in
Ravens-Titans
duel

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3 swimmers stand out



TENORIO



SUZUKI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A lengthy absence from a long-course event did not prevent three Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members from excelling in the Guam Swimming Federation Meet last Saturday in Hagatna.

MHS Varsity completes sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Marianas High School Varsity wrapped up the regular season of the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium.

lastic Girls High School Basketball League with a perfect record.

The Lady Dolphins won their last two games to finish the prelims with a 12-0 record and get the No. 1 seed in the double-elimination

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Marianas High School Varsity's Kastrina Costales, left, dribbles her way through the defense of Grace Christian Academy' Irene Lee during an earlier game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium.



Juhn Tenorio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, and Isaiah Aleksenko had impressive races in their first competition of the year

Aleksenko timed in at 2:30.00 in the 200m butterfly for a new CNMI age group record (unofficial, pending confirmation from the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation) in the boys 13 to 14 division. His mark also earned him an AA grade (U.S. national age group motivational times,



ALEKSENKO

with AAAA the highest). Aleksenko, who last raced in a long course meet more than a year ago (May 2018), did the 100m butterfly, too and his 1:06.65

also got him a new record and AA time.

In the 200m freestyle, Suzuki posted a new record in the 13 to 14 age group after

submitting 2:08.15, which is good for an AAA grade. Suzuki, whose last long course

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CNMI tries again, faces Pohnpei in do-or-die

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI missed on its first attempt to reach the finals of the 3rd Micronesian Baseball Classic yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Agana, Guam.

The host won the battle for the first finals set after outclassing the CNMI, 6-4. With the loss, the Commonwealth will have to play and beat Pohnpei today to get a second crack at Guam and try to dethrone the 2018 champion. The CNMI-Pohnpei game is set for 10am and the winner of the rubber match will play

back-to-back matches on the same day, as the finals is set at 2pm. Pohnpei earned the right to challenge the CNMI for the last finals ticket after eliminating Kosrae, 7-4, in the earlier playoff game yesterday.

Guam scored two goals each in the second and third inning to grab the upper hand from the CNMI, 4-3, and kept the shaky lead after getting one run apiece in the fifth and eighth inning while shutting down the CNMI in the last three.

Before failing to score from the seventh to ninth inning, the Commonwealth managed to take a 2-0 lead after one com-

plete inning, as leadoff batter Virgil Secharmidal reached off Guam's miscue and Darion Jones' single drove in second batter Lorenzo Sebaklim.

After Guam countered with two runs each in the second and third, the CNMI answered with only one run in the third off Ricardo Dela Cruz's RBI single (bringing home Josenio Alvarez). The visiting squad was also held to one run (courtesy of Dela Cruz) in the last six innings, allowing Guam to win the close game and take the first finals seat.

The Commonwealth had a chance to tie or even regain the lead in the seventh inning

with Franko Nakamura on third base and Fred Songao on second with two outs, but Jones was tagged out at first.

The loss ended the CNMI's three-game winning streak and helped Guam quickly avenge its defeat (0-5) to the former last Wednesday.

Shon Muna led Guam with his two RBIs, while Athan Yatar, Kurt Diaz, and Jathan Muna Barnes contributed one RBI each.

Jose Lizama, Frankie Lieto, and L.J. Sebaklim pitched for the CNMI and yielded seven hits, while Guam also utilized three pitchers and gave up eight hits.